MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 SEPTEMBER 1981

Iran

Mahdavi-Kani Cabinet--Tehran radio reported that Prime Minister Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani's proposed Cabinet was presented to the Majlis for its approval. In his letter to the Majlis, broadcast by the radio, the prime minister said the members of the new government are the same as the preceding one and that the policy of the new government will likewise be the same. However, comparison of the Cabinet list proposed by Mahdavi-Kani with earlier Tehran radio reports on the previous government's composition reveals there are three new proposed Cabinet members: Seyyed Kamaleddin Nikravesh, Mohammad Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan and Hasan Ghafuri.

Statements on Assassinations--According to Tehran radio, the Foreign Ministry has issued a statement on neutralization of anti-Iranian conspiracies by the Iranian people. The statement reminded citizens that the assassinations of President Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and Prime Minister Javad Bahonar are "linked" to an "attack" by the U.S. mass media, presumably against Iran, and adds that "the hands of the arch-Satan United States have emerged from the sleeves" of the Mojahedin-e Khalq. Continuing, the statement claims that France, the United States and their allies are trying to regain their former influence in Iran through dealings with the Mojahedin-e Khalq and liberals.

In an interview carried by the radio, Prime Minister Mahdavi-Kani contended that investigations into the 30 August Prime Ministry building bombing have shown that foreign agents were involved. He warned that enemies of Iran are trying to use character assassination as well as physical assassination to destroy the government, noting rumors that individuals in responsible government posts had a hand in the assassinations.

Arrests, Attacks--Tehran radio said that in the past few days more than 90 leftists and counterrevolutionaries have been arrested in cities throughout the nation. According to Ahvaz radio, 28 members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq and Peykar were arrested in Hendijan District. Citing JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, AFP reported that Morteza Khodadi, a clerical supporter of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni from the Caspian port of Bandar-e Anzali, was assassinated in his sleep. The clandestine Voice of Iranian Kordestan radio said the Mojahedin-e Khalq made an unsuccessful bid to capture the radio and television center in Tehran on 1 September.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio carried an interview with a revolution guards spokesman who said that Iraqi forces had suffered more than 150 killed as a result of recent fighting on the Karkheh Kur front. He added that operations on the Allah Akbar front left 10 Iraqi tanks destroyed. Ahvaz radio reported that Iranian attacks north of Susangerd destroyed about 30 enemy tanks and personnel carriers. According to an Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique, carried by Baghdad's Voice of Masses radio, Iranian losses in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region included 412 dead and 22 tanks destroyed. The communique also noted the downing of two Iranian fighter planes in the southern region. INA later cited a military source as saying Iraq had killed more than 1,000 Iranians in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.

Gulf Cooperation Council

In a communique issued at the close of its first session in At-Ta'if, transmitted by SPA, the Gulf Cooperation Council's Ministerial Council asserted that the security and stability of the Gulf are the responsibility of its states alone, expressed opposition to attempts by the great powers to intervene in Gulf affairs and denounced attempts by "other forces" to gain a position in the Gulf from which to threaten its security and sovereignty.

The communique said the council had reviewed Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz's formula for a solution to the Middle East problem and decided to submit Fahd's principles to the next Arab summit conference in order to establish a unified Arab stand. The council also expressed its readiness to help bring about a negotiated end to the Iran-Iraq war and condemned Iran's detention of a ship that had been sailing in Gulf waters.

SPA reported that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz told a press conference that the Ministerial Council session had been successful and would benefit the states and peoples of the region. Emphasizing the need for stability in the gulf, Prince Sa'ud stressed the importance of security cooperation among Gulf states to protect the region from the dangers surrounding it. He also noted that Gulf Cooperation Council states will make efforts to confront hostile propaganda campaigns, and that they will hold further discussions about the establishment of a unified Gulf currency. According to EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah said the council meeting achieved good results, particularly in promoting economic cooperation among member countries.

Libya-Ethiopia-PDRY Treaty

Addis Ababa radio broadcast the text of the tripartite cooperation treaty, signed in Aden on 20 August by the leaders of Libya, Ethiopia and the PDRY. According to Article 16, the three parties are pledged to mutual assistance against aggression "since an aggression against one shall be considered an aggression directed against all the signatory parties."

Lebanon

Lebanese Front Statements--The Lebanese Front issued a statement, broadcast by Beirut radio, that expressed approval of its army command's letter to President Ilyas Sarkis declaring its commitment not to enter into any dealings with Israel. Asserting that the subject of the front's relations with Israel is now closed, the statement appealed to the Arab followup committee to continue its mission and asserted that the front is prepared to embark on "any dialogue" with the follow up committee.

Reacting to Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's call for a Libyan initiative to restore peace in Lebanon, Lebanese Front Military Commander Bashir al-Jumayyil issued a statement, reported by Voice of Lebanon radio, in which he welcomed Al-Qadhdhafi's "good intentions" and expressed hope that the Libyan leader would visit Lebanon to exchange views with the Lebanese Front. However, Al-Jumayyil strongly rejected Al-Qadhdhafi's call for a purge of "traitors" from the Lebanese Front.

Arms Supplies--AFP, citing the daily AL-LIWA', reported that the PRC has furnished the PLO with large quantities of heavy weapons. China's agrement to provide such weapons follows high-level talks between the PLO and Beijing, the report said. Meanwhile, SANA cited AN-NIDA' as reporting that the Lebanese Front forces have recently received three tanks from Israel.

Egypt

An Interior Ministry statement, carried by MENA, disclosed the arrest of a number of Muslims and Christians responsible for inciting recent sectarian unrest. Asserting that these elements had "gone to excesses in their irresponsible and suspicious actions under the cover of religion," the statement noted that President Anwar as-Sadat will "explain all the facts about this issue" in a forthcoming speech.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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AFP: CHINA AGREES TO FURNISH HEAVY WEAPONS TO PLO

NC030625 Paris AFP in English 0816 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] Beirut, 3 Sep (AFP)--China has furnished the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) with large quantities of heavy weapons, according to the Lebanese daily AL-LIWA', generally informed on Palestinian matters, today.

The agreement to send weapons followed high-level talks between the PLO and the Peking government, the newspaper said quoting a PLO military spokesman. The PLO had expressed satisfaction over the Chinese military aid, since it helped replace losses sustained during clashes with Israel in July, the spokesman was quoted as saying. The spokesman declined to reveal the types arms supplied by China, AL-LIWA' said.

'ARAFAT MESSAGE TO UN PALESTINE SEMINAR IN CUBA

FL021652 Havana Voice of Cuba in English to North America and the Caribbean 0800 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Statement from PLO President Yasir 'Arafat to the 31 August opening session of the fourth UN seminar on the Palestinian question in Havana read by (Masamba Sarres), head of the UN committee on Palestinian rights; in English--recorded]

[Text] Mr Chairman, Representative of the president of Cuba, Mr Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Participants of the seminar, Honored Guests: It gives me a great pleasure on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organization and in my own behalf to address this fourth regional seminar on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people which has been convened in Havana, the capital of friendly Cuba.

Our people follow with great interest the deliberations of this seminar which will have a positive impact on the understanding of this question internationally and which will have [words indistinct] Israeli occupation of our land and its terrorist and barbarous practices against our people in the occupied territories as well as against the Palestinian and Lebanese people and the Arab nation as a whole.

I need not remind you of Israel's piracy in raiding the Iraqi nuclear reactor nor its barbarous (?raids) in Lebanon. (?And these repeated events) have demonstrated that the Israeli authorities have no respect for resolutions and recommendations of the General Assembly or the Security Council of the United Nations.

Moreover, Israel totally disregards world condemnation emanating from international and regional conferences resulting from its violations of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people. (From early on), Israel has been, has never desisted from committing criminal acts of aggression, terrorism and oppression against the people whose only offense is [words indistinct] of their legitimate rights which have been recognized by the vast majority of governments, political groups, parties, professional and popular organizations all over the world. It is evident that all conferences and resolutions have not made it possible for our people to exercise their inalienable rights, including the right to return to their home, their self-determination and their right to establish their independent state on their (?separate) soil.

Nevertheless, our people greatly value the international resolutions and recommendations which support this just cause and which condemn Israeli occupation, aggression and racial discrimination. (?These resolutions) comprise an important step toward the realization of the Palestinian aspirations. Our people confront Israeli occupation in the only language that the repressive occupier understands best. And that is the language of armed struggle and popular resistance at the cost of sacrifices and suffering.

Despite all this, and despite the great imbalance between our people and the Zionist military occupying [word indistinct], the justice of the cause for which we fight makes it possible for us to receive widespread support on all levels and thereby enhance our ability to successfully confront their enemy and increase [words indistinct].

Comrades and friends, the most recent vicious attack on Beirut in Lebanon which resulted in enormous loss of human life and [word indistinct] destruction, confirms beyond any doubt that we are facing a power whose barbarity is boundless. Israel committed aggression against a sovereign state and rained thousands of tons of bombs and rockets on heavily populated areas of residential Beirut. The prime minister boasts that he still has in store other means of destruction, witless of the unanimous condemnation of the international community. This is one more reason why the international community is called upon to rally to the support of the rights of the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

It is high time that effective measures against the Zionist racist regime be taken lest the Palestinian and Lebanese people be subjected to greater hardship and the region endangered with grave, far-reaching consequences to the world at large.

Comrades and friends: We cannot explain the persistent arrogance of successive Israeli governments without reference to the continued support, particularly from the United States, which continues to deny the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the legitimacy of their representative, the PLO. Further, they stipulate conditions of recognition that are unacceptable and are at variance with the international consensus, hence, we the Palestinians (?accede) to the United Nations Charter and to the universal declaration of human rights. This is long overdue, that world public opinion, with urgency and (?efficacy), moves to put an end to the American support for occupation, aggression and oppression in our occupied country and this conspiracy and this genocidal war against our people.

At the same time, we deem it opportune to recall with deep appreciation, the invaluable support which the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic countries, the socialist bloc led by the Soviet Union continue to give to our just struggle.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, our people look forward for your deliberations and resolutions and furthering the support for (?our) struggle to realize the inalienable rights in (?our own) country and [words indistinct] adverse designs and practices of Israel (?against us) expressed in the terms of the infamous Camp David agreement.

Comrades, on behalf of the Palestinian people, I salute you all and wish your seminar every success. Revolution until victory.

Signed: Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, general commander of the forces of the Palestinian revolution.

PLO SPOKESMAN DENIES HANI AL-HASAN STORY

NC020723 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Undated statement by PLO official spokesman--read by announcer]

[Text] News agency reports about a statement made by Brother Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, on current events in Iran are pure fabrication. We would like to affirm that brother Hani al-Hasan is still on a visit to Romania, which began 2 weeks ago, for medical reasons. We also affirm the Palestinian revolution's interest in maintaining its close relations with the friendly Iranian people and in not interfering in the internal affairs of any friendly or fraternal country.

GULF AFFAIRS

GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL CONFERENCE ENDS 2 SEP

Report on Conclusion

GF021103 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0940 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Excerpt] At-Ta'if, 2 Sep (GNA)--The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states concluded their 2-day meetings in At-Ta'if this morning. The ministers held their concluding session this morning, during which they discussed the draft of the conference's concluding statement. The conference will issue its concluding statement later today. The statement will include the stands of the council states on various issues of interest to them.

The foreign ministers conference of the GCC has issued a concluding statement in which it reaffirmed that the security and peace of the Gulf are the responsibility of the region's states alone. The statement rejected superpower attempts to intervene in the affairs of the region's states, thus involving them in a conflict that does not serve their interests.

The council also discussed attempts by other powers that are seeking locations within the Gulf region in order to threaten its security and sovereignty. The council rejected such attempts because they pose a threat to the region and its peoples and because they are aimed at securing the influence of foreign powers in the region.

The council also declared its intention to reinforce political and security coordination among the member states in order to confront threats to the region and to increase contacts in order to foil these attempts.

The council renewed its full support for the Palestinian people's struggle for their right to self-determination and the right to establish their own independent state on their soil under the leadership of the PLO. The GCC also reiterated its states' belief that there is no way to achieve peace in the Middle East unless Israel withdraws from all occupied Arab territory, including sacred Jerusalem, and unless Israeli settlements in Arab territory are removed.

The council decided to submit the principles included in the statement made by Prince Fahd on a solution to the Middle East problem to the next Gulf summit meeting to be held in Riyadh on 3 November in order to crystallize a single united Arab stand on this issue.

The council denounced the Zionist aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and Zionist violations of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. It also declared its support for Lebanon in its efforts to restore its legitimacy in the south and to preserve its territorial security and political independence.

The council strongly denounced the incident in which one of the ships passing through the Gulf was held up in a way that contradicts the rules of international law. It reaffirmed freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf.

The council expressed hope that the efforts of the Islamic states--which stem from the Islamic summit conference--to resolve the Iraq-Iran conflict will be successful. It stressed support for these efforts and readiness to participate in whatever contributes to achieving success in this regard.

The council's statement talked about Afghanistan and noted the threats posed by the situation there, not only to the region but also to international peace.

The statement reiterated the commitment of the council states to the resolutions of the Islamic summit conference on this issue.

The GCC also expressed its commitment to the principles of Islamic solidarity and nonaligned policy and its objection to superpower attempts to establish military bases in the region, particularly in the region of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.

The council endorsed the draft of the economic agreement and decided to submit it to the next summit conference for approval, realizing that economic cooperation among the council states is the backbone of future joint action that will insure the region is prepared for complete unity.

The council decided to invite industry ministers of the member states to meet prior to the summit conference in order to lay down the executive bases for industrial cooperation.

The council approved the appointment of Dr 'Abdallah al-Quwayz as assistant secretary general for economic affairs and Ibrahim Humud as-Subhi as assistant secretary general for political affairs.

The council recommended that the second conference of the GCC Supreme Council be held in Riyadh on 3 November 1981. The foreign ministers will meet 2 days earlier.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal delivered a speech in which he stressed that the current session had been successful. He indicated that the results of these meetings will be submitted to the next council summit. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stressed that the efforts made during the conference had been clear evidence that this meeting stems from the sincere intentions of the children and nations of this region.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, also delivered a speech on behalf of the heads and members of the delegations. In his speech the Kuwaiti foreign minister praised the efforts made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in supporting the council and its determination to work for the GCC's goals. He stressed that the council is stronger now following important steps made to reinforce cooperation and strengthen solidarity among the region's states.

Council Communique

LD021210 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1011 GMT 2 Sep 81

["Text" of communique issued at the close of the first session of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf States Cooperation Council held in At-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia from 31 August to 2 September]

[Text] The Ministerial Council of the Gulf States Cooperation Council held its first session from 31 August to 2 September 1981 in At-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia.

In accordance with the final statement of the first summit conference held in Abu Dhabi in the UAE on 25 and 26 May 1981, which stressed the determination of their majesties and highnesses to keep the Gulf area free from international conflicts and to entrust responsibility for security in the region to the states of the area, the first ministerial council session reviewed the political and security situation in the Gulf region in the light of current developments. The council reasserted that the security and stability of the Gulf are the responsibility of its states only. The council expressed opposition to the attempts by the great powers to interfere in the affairs of the area in view of the fact that this might result in involving the region in a conflict which does not conform with the interests of its states nor the will of its peoples.

The council also discussed all the attempts being made by other forces which are seeking to find position in the Gulf from which to threaten its security and sovereignty. The council declared its rejection of these attempts, which constitute a threat to the region and its people and which seek to ensure the influence of foreign forces in the region.

The council declared its intention to consolidate political and security coordination among the member states, so as to face the dangers encircling the region, and to increase contacts so as to eliminate these dangers.

The council also discussed the situation in the Middle East and reasserted its absolute support for the struggling of the people of Palestine for their established right to exercise self-determination and to set up their own independent state on their territory under the leadership of the PLO. The council reiterated the belief of its member states that there can be no just peace in the Middle East unless Israel withdraws from all the occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem, and removes the settlements it is building on those territories. In discussing the Palestinian issue in all its aspects, the council reviewed the declaration of principles contained in the statement of His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, the Saudi crown prince, regarding a just and comprehensive solution to the problem. The council also reviewed the positive Arab and international reaction to these principles.

In view of the support these principles enjoy from the member states, the council decided to request that they be placed on the agenda of the upcoming Arab summit with the aim of bringing about a unified Arab stand on the issue.

The council also condemned the Zionist aggressions against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and the violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon. It declared its support for Lebanon in its efforts to spread its legal authority over the southern part of the territory and to preserve its safety in the region and its political independence and sovereignty.

The council also discussed the conflict between Iraq and Iran and the threat it constitutes to the security and stability of the entire region. It expressed the hope that the efforts of the Muslim states, as initiated by the Islamic summit conference, will be crowned with success. It also expressed its support for those efforts and its readiness to participate in anything that might contribute to their success.

The council also discussed the detention of a ship which had been sailing in the Gulf waters, a matter which violated international law. The council condemned this behavior so as to reassert the freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

The council reviewed the situation in Afghanistan and the dangers this situation constitutes, not only to the security and independence of the region but also to world peace. It stressed its adherence to the resolutions of the Islamic congress in this respect. It also expressed its adherence to Islamic solidarity and the policy of nonalignment and its objection to the attempts by the great powers to set up military bases in the region and in the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. It reviewed the economic agreement which was initialed by the ministers of finance and economy in Riyadh on 8 June 1981.

In accordance with the resolutions of the first summit conference of the Cooperation Council held in Abu Dhabi, in line with the economic working paper which was approved by their majesties and highnesses, in realization of the wishes of the people of the region to remove the economic barriers among the member states of the Cooperation Council and in order to ensure the principle of equality among all citizens, the council approved the draft economic agreement and decided to put it before their majesties and highnesses at their upcoming conference in Riyadh.

While taking this important and blessed step, the Ministerial Council declares that economic cooperation among the member states of the council is the backbone for future actions to ensure the moulding of the area into a framework which paves the way to unity.

The council also decided to invite the industry ministers in the member states to meet before the second summit so as to lay down the executive rules of industrial cooperation in accordance with the third chapter of the draft economic treaty. The council also endorsed the appointment of Dr 'Abdallah al-Quwayz as assistant secretary general for economic affairs and of Ambassador Ibrahim Humud as-Subhi as assistance secretary general for political affiars.

The council recommended that the [words indistinct] 3 November 1981 be the date for the convening of the second conference of the supreme council of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and that this conference be preceded by a meeting of the foreign ministers 2 days earlier.

The council expressed thanks and appreciation to the government of His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz for his hospitality and patronage of the session.

Saudi Minister's Comments

LD021258 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] At-Ta'if, 2 Sep (SPA)--His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal held a press conference at noon today at the Sheraton Hotel conference hall. He spoke about the results of the meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council first ministerial council, which ended before noon today.

At the press conference, which was also attended by Council Secretary General Abdullah Basharah, his royal highness spoke about the economic and political questions that the council discussed. His royal highness stressed the importance of the stability of the Gulf region and of keeping it away from international conflicts. He also spoke of the success of the council session and of the benefits that it will bring to the states and peoples of the region. He also discussed Arab and international developments.

Replying to a question about the principles contained in His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz's statement regarding the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, his royal highness stressed that the council member states supported those principles and underlined the importance of their crystalization into a united stand. His royal highness pointed out that the council requested that those principles be placed on the agenda of the coming Arab summit so that a unified Arab stand my be adopted toward the issue. His royal highness praised the support these principles have enjoyed in Arab and international circles.

Further on Saudi Minister

LD022212 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1220 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] At-Ta'if, 2 Sep (SPA)--His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal also stressed the necessity and the importance of the Gulf region's stability. He said that responsibility for the region lies only with its states. His royal highness also stressed the importance of the existence of security cooperation among the region's states in order to protect the region from the dangers that surround it.

Referring to the biased campaign to which the states of the region are occasionally exposed, his royal highness said that efforts would be exerted by the council's member states to establish a unified strategy to confront those campaigns.

Replying to a question about the possibility of a unified Gulf currency, he said that this issue was among the economic aspect that would be discussed within the framework of approving the final comprehensive agreement which the ministerial council had approved and which [words indistinct] after approving the agreement by the coming summit conference, meetings will be held among the specialized bodies in the various sectors, including the financial sector, to discuss the implementation of the principles that are defined in the comprehensive policy. [passage indistinct]

His highness the foreign minister denied that the establishment of the Cooperation Council of the Arab Gulf States constituted a military axis or a bloc against anybody: He said that it is a gathering which serves not only the region but also Arab and Islamic issues and that it has and effective and positive repercussion on stability in the Gulf region. His highness said that the council's aims are clearly set out in its constitution and in the statements which the council had issued. [passage indistinct]

Bahraini Minister's Statement

GF021810 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1340 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Manama, 2 Sep (GNA)--Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Kahlifah returned to Manama from At-Ta'if today after heading his country's delegation to the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers meeting that concluded there today.

Upon his return, Shaykh Muhammad announced in a statement that political, economic, and security matters had been comprehensively reviewed during the meetings in order to set a joint working plan to be submitted to the supreme council in its meeting next November. Many significant matters were also discussed so a common position on them could be reached. It was also agreed to submit the economic agreement for the final approval of the next summit conference.

He stated that the agreement includes many important principles in the economic, commercial and industrial fields. These principles will bring great results for the development and progress of the council's countries and will be the foundation for a coherent and harmonious economic starting point in establishing a solid economy that will achieve wealth and prosperity in the region.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah added that the current Arab situation in general and the Gulf situation in particular were discussed and that common attitudes were assumed toward them. Moreover, the conference affirmed its determination to achieve political and security coordination among the member countries. This will start a new stage of cooperation among the region's countries in the collective confrontation of political challenges.

The Bahraini foreign minister concluded his statement by saying: "We feel that the GCC has become more powerful and steadier. This will enable it to achieve the major objectives included in the covenant. Moreover, the supreme council's next conference will deal with the transition to the new stage so there principles can be put into action. Such actions will bring about great progress for all citizens of the region. They will insure the welfare of Arabs and Muslims and will serve the interests of peoples who support us."

UAE Minister's Statement

GF021931 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1705 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Sep (ENA)--The UAE delegation headed by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned home today from At-Ta'if after taking part in the meetings of the first session of the ministerial council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which concluded its meetings in At-Ta'if today.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, the minister praised the resolutions the council adopted, saying: "The conference achieved good results, particularly the economic agreement that will facilitate establishing bases of cooperation among the council's member countries in all fields that concern the citizens of the region." He added that it will strengthen ties between individuals and between private institutions.

Rashid 'Abdallah added that the conference agreed upon political resolutions, particularly in supporting the initiative of Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, together with its inclusion on the agenda of the next Arab summit conference in order to establish a unified Arab position toward the Palestinian issue. He also stressed that the council's member countries firmly support Arab rights and the Palestinian resistance. He said there is an effort by member countries to gain further international support for the Arab cause.

BAHRAIN

HEIR APPARENT LEAVES FOR SAUDI ARABIA VISIT 3 SEP

GF030755 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0715 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] Manama, 3 Sep (GNA)--Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, left Manama today for At-Ta'if for a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia. In a predeparture statement Shaykh Hamad said his visit is within the framework of regular consultations between the two countries on issues of mutual interest.

Praising Bahrain's relations with Saudi Arabia, Shaykh Hamad said: These relations are becoming more solid, particularly following the signing of the agreement to build the causeway between the two countries. He stressed that Bahrain will spare no effort to preserve these relations. He expressed hope that everyone will be successful in serving the interests of the peoples of the area, who are bound by tolerant Islamic ideology and ties of kinship, and that these peoples will realize their aspiration of participating effectively in the affairs of the Arab and Islamic nation.

OMAN

SOVIET DESIGN SEEN IN LIBYA-PDRY-ETHIOPIA SUMMIT

EA021625 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Our region is passing through critical stages following the Soviet-supervised and inspired moves and arrangements made by South Yemen, Libya and Ethiopia. Not satisfied with the so-called friendship treaties, by means of which it imposes its restrictions on its victim regimes so as to control the resources of their peoples and make them tread the path it wishes, the USSR has devised a new method to tie these regimes more tightly to the Soviet wheel--that is, linking them together in aggressive alliances. This new Soviet method was recently revealed at the Aden conference attended by the South Yemeni, Libyan and Ethiopian heads of state, which culminated in the signing of a friendship treaty linking these regimes. Each of them is also individually tied to Moscow by separate friendship treaties. The present treaty is no more than a codification of the subservience of the three regimes to the USSR.

The treaty was not a chance occurrence, but is part of a Soviet design, very clear in its features and confirmed at the summit by the fact that a Soviet representative attended all the meetings of the three heads of state. The Soviet representative went as far as to draw up the agenda and (?guide) the conference.

This was not strange, as the summit was held to discuss a common foreign policy, a policy drawn up in Moscow and which the three regimes are required to pursue according to their assigned roles.

However, a greater danger lies in the Russian ambition to strike at any attempt at unity or union, because of the Russian view on nationalities. The designs of red sabotage are very clear here. Moscow's intentions are manifest in its attempt to reach the waters of the Gulf and take over its oil-rich region. This has compelled the states of the region to draw up a joint strategy and develop their experience to confront this course.

The threats to the Gulf region are clear and known to all. There is no difference of opinion about them. From the standpoint of fraternity, the sultanate put forward its views on these dangers in a realistic manner before the Gulf Cooperation Council and convinced everyone. Perhaps the conviction basically arose from the sultanate's struggle against communism, particularly during the first 5 years of the blessed uprising. The meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council's foreign ministers is of special significance under the present dangerous circumstances and the critical stages through which the region is passing.

QATAR

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY REMARKS

GF021927 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalid al-Ghanim, State Council chairman, has announced that the establishment of Qatar's State Council in 1972--following the issuance of the temporary constitutional statutes amending the country's governmental system--affirmed the desire and insistence of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the dearly-beloved amir, to establish democratic rule in the country. It also affirmed his highness' belief in the necessity of applying the constitutional experience on the basis of Islam's principle of consultation, which is derived from the Koran and the exalted teachings of the Prophet. He went on to say that exercising this kind of democracy has proved the success of this experience. It is in harmony with the provisions of Islamic law and our deep-rooted Islamic customs and traditions.

In a statement to QNA on the 10th anniversary of Qatar's independence, 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalid al-Ghanim said that the establishment of the State Council meant many things, the most important of which was familiarizing people with government through the deputies in the council and putting the country on the threshold of a new constitutional experience that Qatar is experiencing for the first time. He said that Qatar hopes that this will continue and progress.

His excellency noted the role that the State Council is playing in Qatari life, both internally and externally. He pointed out that the State Council is considered to be a national body that offers its opinion in dealing with the country's affairs in general and legislation in particular.

SAUDI ARABIA

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON TALKS WITH ZAMBIA ISSUED

LD021230 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1535 GMT 1 Sep 81

["Text" of joint communique issued at conclusion of visit to Saudi Arabia by Zambian President Dr Kenneth Kaunda, 1 September]

[Text] At the invitation of His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency Dr Kenneth David Kaunda, president of the Zambian Republic, made an official visit to Saudi Arabia from 30 August to 1 September 1981.

During the visit his excellency the guest and his majesty the king held talks which dealt with a number of issues of mutual interest, Arab-African relations, African problems, the Middle East problems and bilateral cooperation between the two countries in particular. The talks were characterized by openness, a spirit of friendship and mutual trust, reflecting the good relations between the two countries.

On the Zambian side, the following took part in the talks:

His Excellency R.C. Kamanga, chairman of the Political, Constitutional and Legal and Foreign Affairs Committee of the United National Independence Party (UNIP),
His Excellency E.H.K. Mudenda, chairman of the UNIP Economic and Finance Committee;
His Excellency L. Goma, foreign minister,
His Excellency R. Chisupa, minister of commerce and industry;
His Excellency H. Mwale, minister of works and supply;
His Excellency K. Musokotwane, minister of finance;
His Excellency W. Phiri, the president's special assistant on political affairs;
His Excellency Matiya Ngalande, Zambian ambassador to Saudi Arabia;
His Excellency J.S. Mulaisho, the president's special assistant on economic affairs;
His Excellency J.S. Punabantu, the president's special assistant on press affairs;
His Excellency J.C. Mapoma, general director of Zambia Industrial and Mining Corporation for Industry and Mining;
His Excellency W.B. (Silosa), assistant under secretary for political affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

On the Saudi Arabian side, the following took part in the talks:

His Royal Highness Amir 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard;
His Royal Highness Amir Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general;
His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Abd al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy;
His Excellency Ghazi al-Qusaybi, minister of industry and electricity;
His Excellency Dr Muhammad al-Mulham, minister of state;
His Excellency Shaykh Safwat al-Husayni, ambassador to Zambia;
His Excellency Shaykh Fa'iq Ghazzawi, head of the African and Asian Sections at the Foreign Ministry.

His Majesty King Khalid saluted His Excellency President Kaunda in particular for his stands supporting Arab issues and matters of Arab-African cooperation in all fields. His majesty also praised the efforts made by his excellency the president in finding solutions to the regional, African and international problems, especially the issues of liberation and independence in the South African region.

The two sides expressed a desire for working to develop friendship ties between their two countries and developing cooperation between them in the economic and cultural fields. They agreed on the exchange of visits between officials of the two countries.

The two sides studied the Middle East issue and agreed on condemning Israeli aggression against Arab countries generally, and against the Palestinian people in particular. They stressed their rejection of territorial annexation by force. They also expressed their conviction on the necessity of Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied since 1967 and, foremost among them, Jerusalem, and on supporting the Palestinian people in regaining their legitimate rights, including the rights of self-determination, return to their usurped homeland and establishment of an independent state on its territory under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

The two sides expressed their strong condemnation of the Israeli bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor and its continuous aggression against southern Lebanon, which was considered a blatant defiance of the principles of the UN Charter, the world community and human rights. They stressed that it was necessary for the international community to confront these situations and implement deterrent measures to an end to the attacks. They also stressed their support for the unity and territorial security of Lebanon. Regarding that, his excellency the president saluted His Majesty King Khalid on the eight-point statement aimed at securing the bases of peace in the Middle East region, which was recently issued by His Royal Highness Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, heir apparent and deputy prime minister, on the orders of his majesty.

On discussing the problems of racial discrimination in the South African region, the two sides expressed their conviction that there was correspondence and congruity between the colonial Zionist settlement in Palestine and the colonial racist settlement in South Africa. As the two sides condemned cooperation between Israel and South Africa in denying the rights of the Palestinian and South African peoples, they stressed their persistence in supporting the African countries which are still under the burden of colonialism and racial discrimination and they expressed their support for their just struggle for the achievement of independence and the attainment of their national rights.

The two sides strongly condemned any kind of interference in the affairs of other countries. They called for the withdrawal of the interfering foreign troops from Afghanistan so that the Afghan people could choose the regime they wanted.

The two sides considered his excellency the Zambian president's visit to Saudi Arabia as a starting point for strengthening the established relations between the two countries and that it would lead to extending and deepening those relations.

His excellency the Zambian president expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the welcome and hospitality he and his accompanying delegation received. He also expressed his admiration for the accomplishments which have been realized in the various fields of life in Saudi Arabia, under the wise and sincere leadership of His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, for the achievement of economic and social development in the country. He praised the correct policies followed by his majesty's government in the fields of international relations.

At the conclusion of the talks his excellency the Zambian president invited the Saudi monarch to visit Zambia. His majesty gratefully accepted the invitation, the date of which will be set later.

KING KHALID RECEIVES VISITING GAMBIAN MINISTER

LD021546 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1127 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] At-Ta'if, 2 Sep (SPA)--His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received at his office in the Royal Court in At-Ta'if today His Excellency Lamin Kiti Jabang, the Gambian minister of external affairs, who delivered a letter to his majesty from His Excellency Dawda Jawara, the president of Gambia.

Present at the audience were His Royal Highness 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard, and the Gambian ambassador in the kingdom.

His excellency the Gambian minister of external affairs arrived in At-Ta'if this morning on a short visit.

STATEMENT ON DETENTION OF SECTARIAN 'ELEMENTS'

NC020724 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2354 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA)--The Interior Ministry issued the following statement tonight: In light of the information and evidence that have been made available to the Interior Ministry organs on the incidents concerning sectarian sedition and the elements that have played and are playing a prominent role in inciting these events, exploiting them and attempting to escalate them, the Interior Ministry organs this evening detained these elements, both Muslim and Christian, in order to refer them to the investigation authorities.

These elements have gone to excesses in their irresponsible and suspicious actions under the cover of religion. They met with other hostile elements and exploited the climate of freedom and democracy in order to achieve personal interests and purposes that harm national unity and social peace and threaten the citizens' security and interests. The president of the republic announced that he will explain all the facts about this issue to the masses in his speech to the people's representatives.

COURT APPROVES CONFISCATION OF AD-DA'WAH EDITION

NC292305 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 29 Aug 81

[Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)--Cairo's court of first instance today approved a request by the State Security Prosecution to confiscate the new edition of the [word indistinct] monthly magazine AD-DA'WAH.

Court President Counselor Hamid Zaki outlined that in his judgment the edition includes statements and propaganda instigating hatred of the regime and of a community of the people, thus harming the public peace.

'Asim 'Abd al-Hamid, chief of the State Security Prosecution, has stated before the court that the magazine had waged a strong campaign against the state's domestic and foreign policy and criticized those executing the lawful policies of the constitutional institutes, thus creating obstacles preventing the government from accomplishing the work entrusted to it, and, consequently, the magazine departed from the framework of the permissible criticism and legitimate opposition.

AS-SADAT REPLACED ALEXANDRIA, MATRUH GOVERNORS

PM270849 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 25 Aug 81 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Al-Mahi Appointed Alexandria Governor"]

[Excerpt] President Anwar as-Sadat has issued an order appointing Muhammad Sa'id al-Mahid governor of Alexandria.

Dr Na'im Abu Talib, the incumbent governor of Alexandria, had expressed the desire to resign his post in order to go into the banking business. His resignation has been accepted. Al-AHRAM's correspondent has learned that Dr Abu Talib has been appointed chairman of the Alexandria Commerical and Maritime Bank.

The president has also issued an order appointing Maj Gen Muhammad Yusuri Muhammad ash-Shami governor of Matruh, the post which was occupied by Maj Gen Fu'ad Nassar.

In 1974 Maj Gen Yusuri ash-Shami was appointed director of the military police and he remained in this post until yesterday.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 448

JN021736 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Communique No 448 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 2 September 1981]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With valor and great exuberance, Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah forces continue to record their most splendid heroic epics in the battle of honor they are capably waging against the forces of the arrogant racist Persian regime. Following are our forces' activities for yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Our forces in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region today clashed with enemy forces made up of infantry, special forces, armor and charlatan Khomeyni guards. Large fierce battles raged in front of our units' positions. All available weapons were used. The enemy was forced to retreat under our forces' strong blows, after sustaining heavy losses in lives and equipment. Their losses in front of only one of our units amounted to 412 dead, most of whose bodies are still on the battlefield. Others were captured and 22 tanks, 3 armored personnel carriers, 6 vehicles and 1 excavator were destroyed.
B. Our units continued to hit the ignorant enemy forces hard in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] region, inflicting on them as yet uncounted massive losses in lives and equipment. A number of enemy troops were also taken captive.
C. Our units pounded an enemy troop concentration opposite our forces' positions in the Dezful region, killing 17 and destroying 2 stockpiles of hardware.
D. Eleven killed and 4 armored personnel carriers, 1 vehicle carrying hardware and 1 stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Abadan region.
E. Six killed and five vehicles destroyed in the Nowsud region.
F. Five killed in the Ahvaz region.
G. Four killed in the Mehran region.
H. Five infantry positions destroyed in the Sumar region.
I. Two enemy fighter planes were downed in the southern sector of the battlefield.

Thus, total known enemy losses counted so far amount to 455 killed and 5 infantry positions, 22 tanks, 7 armored personnel carriers, 12 vehicles, 1 excavator, 3 stockpiles of hardware and 2 fighter planes destroyed.

II. Our Losses:

A. In personnel: 16 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: Four vehicles damaged.
C. The Persian enemy shelled the Basra region with heavy artillery today.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 September 1981

MORE THAN 1,000 IRANIANS REPORTED KILLED IN BATTLE

JN022019 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Sep 81

[By Faraj al-Ja'fari]

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA)--An authoritative military source has announced that the Persian enemy's losses in today's battle at the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region amount to over 1,000 dead.

In a statement to an INA press team on the battlefield, the military source said that with today's battle the Persian enemy meant to raise its soldiers' morale after the deaths of the regime's president and prime minister last Sunday, in an attempt to reduce the impact of the violent shock to the regime. He added that enemy losses are now being accurately counted and said: We expected an attack with the approach of the second year of the war and the enemy has been preparing for this operation for some time. He further said: The information we had was accurate and enabled us to watch the situation closely and get ready to confront any hostile move.

The military source said that, at 0400 today, the Persian enemy began heavy artillery shelling of the sector. This was followed by an infantry attack supported by armor. However, he added, the Iraqi units in the area strongly resisted the enemy and counter-attacked, foiling its attempt and destroying it completely. He indicated that the enemy left behind much of its armor and many vehicles and weapons and took to its heels under our deadly blows.

PRESIDENT HUSAYN VISITS BATTLEFIELD 2 SEP

JN031003 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Sep (INA)--President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the armed forces, yesterday visited the central sector of the battlefield. The president held a series of meetings with the commanders of the military units and formations and discussed with them the latest military developments on the front. All this took place while a major battle was raging during which our heroic fighters defeated the Iranian enemy, who had attacked our forces on all fronts. However, the enemy attempt was crushed like its previous desperate attempts. The president listened to a detailed briefing on the military situation and the tremendous victories our heroic fighters have scored on the front. His excellency had lunch with the commanders of the military units and formations. The army chief of staff accompanied the president on the visit.

SYRIAN, IRANIAN COOPERATION SEEN IN 8 AUG FLIGHTS

JN021837 Baghdad INA in English 1830 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Baghdad 2 Sep (INA)--A formation of four aircraft has been detected coming from the Syrian airspace towards the Iraqi-Turkish borders at 1608 (1308 GMT) on Aug 8. Then two of the aircraft returned to Syria while the other two proceeded along the said borders towards Iran, IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, INA, learnt.

The two aircraft were detected by Iraqi observation posts at Zakhu, Al-'Amadiyah and Shirwan Mazin northern towns, entering the Iranian airspace.

INA also learnt that an Iranian jet fighter had landed in Syria after the air raid on Al-Walid Iraqi airforce base and might be repaired there or the two aircrafts were repaired in one of the European countries and used the Syrian airspace for refueling while the Syrian planes escorted them to provide protection until the border area.

The cooperation between the Syrian regime and the Persian enemy is being revealed, as time passes, with the aim to harm Iraq, the Arab revolution base, and the struggle of its people.

While the Iranian regimes policies are being denounced by almost everywhere in the world, the Syrian regime otherwise insists on siding with that collapsing regime allied with the Zionists which is standing against the Iranian peoples beside its racist war against the Arab nation represented by Iraq.

FORMER ARMY CHIEF TO BECOME ENVOY TO U.S.

JN030638 AMMAN AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Amman--AD-DUSTUR has learned that Staff Lt Gen Engineer 'Abd al-Hadi al-Majali will be appointed ambassador to the United States. Al-Majali will replace Ash-Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, who will be transferred to the Foreign Ministry.

AL-QASIM CONFERS WITH SENATOR PRESSLER 2 SEP

JN021543 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Amman, 2 Sep (PETRA)--Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim received in his office this morning Senator Larry Pressler, U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee member. The two sides discussed the situation in the region and bilateral relations.

Al-Qasim explained to the guest Jordan's unchanging principles for a just and comprehensive peace in the region as confirmed by the Baghdad, Tunis and Amman Arab summit conferences' resolutions and as represented in the total Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, headed by Arab Jerusalem, and a guarantee of the Palestinian Arab people's national legitimate rights to self-determination and establishment of an independent state on their own soil under the PLO, the palestinian Arab people's sole legitimate representative.

The foreign minister noted that the Camp David accords have ignored the crux of the issue, and have given Israel a free hand in continuing and expanding its aggression against the Arab states and in continuing its policy of annexing the occupied Arab territories to the Zionist entity.

The minister called on the U.S. senator to urge his government to positively respond to the requisites of a just and comprehensive peace in the region and to apply the same principles advocated by the U.S. Government with regard to other regions in the world which are under foreign occupation. The U.S. Ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH BANGLADESH OFFICIAL

JN021509 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Amman, 2 Sep (PETRA)--Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim received in his office today Bangladesh Deputy Prime Minister Jamaludin Ahmed.

The two sides reviewed the international situation in general and Islamic affairs in particular. They also discussed the efforts that can be undertaken by the Islamic states to end the Iranian-Iraqi war by ensuring Iranian recognition of the Iraqi people's legitimate national rights to their land and waters.

The Bangladesh deputy prime minister arrived in Amman from Baghdad this morning on his way back home.

SHAM'UN ISSUES STATEMENT; AL-JUMAYYIL COMMENTS

NC021225 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] After its meeting, the Lebanese Front issued a statement at noon today. The text of the statement, which was ready by [former] President Camille Sham'un [leader of the Lebanese Front] is as follows:

The Lebanese Front, which has perused the letter that the Lebanese Forces Command has given to his excellency the president of the republic declaring its commitment not to enter into any dealings with Israel, emphasizes its approval of the contents of the aforementioned letter and considers the subject closed.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Front appeals to the followup committee to continue performing its mission, whose aim is to restore normal conditions to Lebanon as far as security, stability and absolute sovereignty are concerned, like any other Arab state. The statement concluded: The Front is prepared to embark on any dialogue with the honorable [followup] committee that would lead to the achievement of this noble aim.

In reply to a question, [former] President Camille Sham'un expressed the hope that, after this statement, the atmosphere will be suitable for the Arab followup committee to succeed in its work. He described French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson's visit to Lebanon as indicative of a readiness to help Lebanon resolve all its problems.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil [leader of the Lebanese Phalangist Party] commented on Camille Sham'un's statement by saying: The statement which was issued today in the name of the Lebanese Front was clear and frank. The statement emphasizes the Front's unified stand in order to facilitate the task of the Arab followup committee and open the way to all the proposed solutions to end the tragedies to which Lebanon is exposed. Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil called on the state to watch all the shores and borders to prevent the entry of arms to any faction.

More On Statements

NC021540 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Front held its regular meeting this morning. The deputies [representatives in the Chamber of Deputies] of the Phalangist and [National] Liberal Parties and the Front leaders attended. The Front settled the reports on dealings with Israel in an official statement which was read out by [former] President Camille Sham'un as follows:

This statement is issued by the Lebanese Front on the basis of a telephone contact made by Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir.

After reading out the statement, [former] President Camille Sham'un answered newsmen's questions.

Asked if he considers the current atmosphere suitable for the Arab followup committee to succeed in its task, Sham'un said: We hope so.

Asked to comment on the contents of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's speech on Lebanon, Sham'un replied: had I any official status, I would have invited the Libyan leader to visit Lebanon. However, I invite him in my personal capacity.

To a question of whether he considers that an important change has occurred in the French policy vis-a-vis action to resolve the Lebanese crisis as a result of Minister Claude Cheysson's visit to Lebanon, Sham'un replied: If anything, the visit was an indication of a generous affection toward Lebanon by the French Government as well as readiness to help Lebanon in resolving all its problems.

Commenting on the Front's statement and on the statements made by [former] President Sham'un, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil [leader of the Phalangist Party] said: They were clear and frank and emphasized the Lebanese Front's unified stand to facilitate the task of the Arab followup committee and open the way to the proposed solutions to end the tragedy of Lebanon.

We, as a Lebanese Front, are determined to facilitate every task leading to a solution. Our wager on an Arab solution continues to be our hope for deliverance and for ending the tragedy so that Lebanon would not be turned into an alien body in the area. This is what we have rejected constantly and we have confronted all difficulties.

The Phalangist leader added: If what is required is to halt the flow of arms into Lebanon, we were the first to call for this and we stressed that arms should be in the hands of the state alone, not in irresponsible hands to destroy Lebanon and to kill the Lebanese. If the shores must be controlled and watched, we are prepared to help the committee, provided that arms would be equally banned to every hand seeking to provoke incidents and destruction in Lebanon.

Asked how the possession of arms by the Palestinians can be accepted now that they have proved that they are a party against another party in the Lebanese Arena, Al-Jumayyil said: I have made it a condition that the Palestinian arms should be used for the recovery of Palestine and in accordance with what is allowed by the agreements between the Lebanese authorities and the Palestinian resistance. Had these agreements been implemented, there would have been no problem.

Asked if the Lebanese Front continues to favor an Arab solution to the Lebanese issue, Al-Jumayyil said: An Arab solution is the best solution. We wish the followup committee success in its endeavors because failure would bring great harm to Lebanon and all the Arabs.

SARKIS RECEIVES SAUDI, KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTERS

NC021930 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] At 2045 today, President Ilyas Sarkis received Arab followup committee members Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, who were accompanied by Gen 'Ali ash-Sha'ir and 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan, the Saudi and Kuwait ambassadors to Lebanon, respectively.

During the meeting, the Arab followup committee's task was reviewed. The committee will begin its meetings at the republican palace tomorrow under President Ilyas Sarkis following the arrival of Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

Information Minister Michel Iddih received the Saudi and Kuwaiti ministers in Shtawrah upon their arrival from Damascus. He then accompanied them to the republican palace at B'abda.

ARAB FOLLOWUP COMMITTEE BEGINS MEETING 3 SEP

NC031030 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] The Arab followup committee began its first official meeting on the foreign ministers level at B'abda Palace at 1130 today. The meeting was chaired by President Ilyas Sarkis and was attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

Also attending the meeting were Saudi Ambassador Lt Gen 'Ali ash-Sahi'ir, Kuwaiti Ambassador 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan, Arab League Secretary General's Personal Representative Mahmud al-Ma'muri and head of the Arab Deterrent Forces Intelligence Service Col Muhammad Ghani.

DPRK ENVOY CONTACTS AS-SULH ON MISSILE FIRING

NC021313 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] The head of the DPRK trade mission today met with Ambassador 'Abd ar-Rahman as-Sulh, director of political affairs in the Foreign Ministry, and gave him a note dealing with the situation in the DPRK following the tension which occurred after the firing of a Korean missile at U.S. planes last week. Ambassador as-Sulh told the DPRK representative that the rumors about Lebanon's withdrawal of its recognition of the DPRK are untrue.

VOL CLAIMS LEFTISTS KIDNAP THREE UNIFIL TROOPS

NC031738 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] Leftist and Palestinian gunmen abducted three Senegalese UNIFIL soldiers while they were crossing a road northeast of the city of Tyre. Contacts are underway to gain their release.

SARKIS BRIEFS CABINET ON KUWAITI AID, OTHER EVENTS

NC021628 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Excerpts] After the Cabinet meeting, which ended at 1415 today, the acting secretary general of the prime minister's office, (Shafiq Munayminah), made the following official announcement:

At the beginning of the meeting President Ilyas Sarkis briefed the Cabinet on the results of French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson's visit to Lebanon last weekend as well as on the answers so far received from the fraternal Arab countries to Lebanon's request to convene an emergency Arab summit conference. President Sarkis expressed the hope that the meetings of the Arab followup committee, which are scheduled to begin tomorrow, Thursday, will result in achieving the hopes pinned on it. Neither the prime minister nor the rest of the ministers made a statement, except the finance minister, who upon leaving the palace said: I informed the Cabinet today that the State of Kuwait has sent $30 million as part of the aid for 1981 decided on at the Tunis summit--about one-half of Kuwait's annual share, which is $62 million.

PHALANGISTS REPORTEDLY RECEIVE TANKS FROM ISRAEL

JN020925 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Beirut, 2 Sep (SANA)--The Lebanese newspaper AN-NIDA' published here today reports that the Phalangist gangs have recently received three tanks from Israel that had been seized from Egypt during the October liberation war.

BASHIR AL-JUMAYYIL REACTS TO AL-QADHDHAFI PLAN

NC021858 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] In a statement to the Libyan news agency regarding leader Al-Qadhdhafi's speech yesterday, Bashir al-Jumayyil has said: So far, we have not read the initiative the Libyan leader intends to make regarding Lebanon or the form it will take. However, we are ready to respond favorably to any Arab initiative of this kind, particularly if it embodies the good intentions manifested in Al-Qadhdhafi's remarks on the Lebanese crisis and rises above factional sentiments.

Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil added: We have more than one comment on Al-Qadhdhafi's speech, particularly regarding his call for purging traitors from the Lebanese Front. We do not agree with him on this. In any case, on Al-Qadhdhafi's plan, we admire his true vision, concern over the Lebanese balance, recognition of the Arab default regarding Lebanon and insistance on making up for this default through an initiative that we hope will not have the same fate as other previous initiatives. We hope that the Libyan initiative will result in a deep awareness of Lebanon's reality and special circumstances and the causes of its tragedy.

We score Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's promise that the intercession this time will not be factional but one aimed at solving the problem and ending the conflict. Al-Qadhdhafi was clear on this. What is important is to succeed in what he has promised and to come to Lebanon so that we directly hear each other's views and convey to him facts pertinent to the essence and crux of the problem that he has never hears.

BRIEFS

OIL REFINERY OPERATIONS--The Medreco refinery in Az-Zahrani, south Lebanon, started operating at half capacity--18,000 barrels a day--as of the weekend. The refinery stopped operating last month after sustaining substantial damage during Israel's attacks on the south. Repair work was completed only last week and officials at the refinery said its fuel reserves enabled it to operate for around a fortnight. Pumping of Saudi crude from the Ras Tanura terminal to Za-Zahrani is expected to have resumed by then. [Text] [Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 24-30 Aug 81 p 15 NC]

AL-KASM RECEIVES GEORGIAN SSR'S CHITANAVA

JN021348 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Damascus--At 1100 today, Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm received N.A. Chitanava, deputy chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Damascus.

During the meeting, the prime minister affirmed that the friendly relations of cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union are being strengthened and developed in the political and economic fields. These relations, the prime minister added, are entrenching the bases of Arab-Soviet friendship in general and of Syrian-Soviet friendship in particular. This friendship makes Soviet support for Syria and the Arab liberation movement together with its steadfast struggle against U.S. imperialism and Zionism abasis for ideal relations among peoples, particularly at this stage when the fierce onslaught against Syria is increasing because Syria has defeated the plots of capitulation while confronting all aggressive designs.

During the meeting emphasis was laid on the fact that the escalating power of Arab confrontation and steadfastness has strengthened the grounds of Arab struggle and forced the U.S. imperialist and Zionist aggressive policies to change their methods and to resort to the principles of violence and direct intervention, to escalate tension in the region, to plunge the region into an atmosphere of intimidation and to strike at any move aimed at achieving a just peace.

Mr Chitanava pointed out that the people of Georgia and other Soviet peoples highly appreciate the close cooperation which is being strengthened and developed in all fields between Syria and the Soviet Union. He affirmed that the Soviet Union supports and backs with all means the national and pan-Arab approach of struggling Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad. He praised Syria's great economic and social progress in the various fields of development.

Earlier in the day, 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah received Chitanava and his delegation. Talks during the meeting centered on the close ties between Syria and the Soviet Union. Talks also dealt with economic and technical cooperation between the two friendly countries and the development of this cooperation in all fields.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES SAUDI, KUWAITI MINISTERS

JN021704 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Latakia--At 1515 today, His Excellent President Hafiz al-Asad received Saudi Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

The Saudi and Kuwaiti foreign ministers arrived in Damascus at 1430 today to attend the Arab followup committee meetings to begin in Beirut tomorrow, Thursday. They were welcomed at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; Foreign Ministry ranking officials; and the Saudi and Kuwaiti ambassadors in Damascus and Beirut.

SHAMIR BELIEVES AUTONOMY CAN BE CONCLUDED SOON

TA031214 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] The foreign minister believes that it is possible for Israel and Egypt to reach a mutually acceptable agreement on the autonomy in only a few meetings. Our correspondent Arye Golan was told that Minister Shamir said this at a meeting of the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee. He said it would be advisable to reach an autonomy agreement before next April which is the date for the final evacuation of Israeli forces from the Sinai. MK Roni Milo proposed that the Ministerial Committee for Autonomy Negotiations be headed by the foreign minister since Minister Burg is busy dealing with the affairs of the three ministries of which is he is in charge.

JOINT COMMITTEE TO DECIDE ON SINAI CROSSING POINTS

TA030624 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] The Transportation and Communications Committee, affiliated with the joint Israel-Egyptian committee, will decide on the location of the border crossing points between the two countries after the pullback from the Sinai is completed. Next week the preparations for the convening of the joint tourism and civil aviation committee will begin. It is to begin functioning in more than 2 weeks. This committee will deal with the transfer of the Sinai air bases to Egypt. Among the members of the Egyptian delegation will be the director general of the Foreign Ministry.

WEINBERGER SENDS 'FRIENDLY' MESSAGE TO BEGIN

TA030815 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] In anticipation of the arrival of Prime Minister Begin in Washington for talks with the administration leaders, several days ago Mr Begin received a personal message from U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. Our political correspondent has learned that the message is formulated in a very friendly style and Jerusalem regards this as an attempt to improve the relations between the two. Our correspondent has learned that Weinberger said that he was looking forward to the arrival of Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, who will remain in the United States even after the prime minister has concluded his talks. He will hold 2 days of talks with his counterpart on bilateral issues, including long-term security matters.

REQUEST FOR U.S. AID SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS REQUEST

TA030517 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] Israel's request for U.S. aid next year will be similar to this year's when Israel asked for $2.9 billion, of which it will ultimately probably receive $2.2 billion. The exact sum that will be included in the new request will be determined by the time of the finance minister's scheduled visit to Washington in 3 weeks. Our correspondent Shalom Qital noted that difficulties are expected in regard to the sum Congress will approve for next year because of the Reagan administration's plan to cut the budget, which this time might also reduce the aid to Israel that had not been affected in the current budget.

DAVAR: BEGIN TO OFFER REAGAN STRATEGIC COOPERATION

TA020750 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Sep 81 p 1

[Report by Yosef Pri'el, DAVAR correspondent in the United States]

[Excerpt] Washington (exclusive)--In his talks with President Reagan in Washington Prime Minister Menahem Begin plans to emphasize the suggestion that Israel be incorporated in the U.S. global strategic deployment.

Begin will do so in view of the fact that the administration seems to be inclined to use Israel's neighbors and bypass Israel itself in terms of its strategic cooperation. This was learned by this reporter from Israeli sources in Washington. According to the sources, Israel is worried about the fact that Egypt and Saudi Arabia will serve as bases for the U.S. Army while Israel, which regards itself as a traditional ally of the United States, and a democracy at that, remains outside the picture. Begin has already said in the past that if the United States offers Israel a defense pact, he will advise the government to view the offer favorably, but the United States is not considering such a move at all.

According to the Israeli sources, Begin plans to offer Reagan the use of the Haifa and Asdod ports for the 6th Fleet, and to suggest, for the first time, that U.S. arms be-stored in Israeli emergency arsenals. This equipment will be maintained by the United States, and will remain U.S. property; moreover, it will not be used by Israel. Israel will allow the United States to use it in times of emergency and thus shorten the time needed to get organized for whatever moves are called for, and will draw the U.S. forces closer to the areas of fighting (in the eventuality of a war in the Persian Gulf, for example). This plan was worked out in Israel, and according to the sources, it is supported by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon.

It appears from the material compiled for Begin for his meeting with Reagan that he will tell the U.S. President that he does not understand why the United States is insisting on using European ports, where it is confronted by shouts of "Yankee go home," whereas it is a welcome guest in Israel. Begin will tell Reagan that he had learned that the most severe penalty for 6th Fleet personnel is not allowing them ashore when anchoring at Haifa.

SYRIAN ADVANCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON REPORTED

TA021608 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Report by military correspondent Sha'ul Stav]

[Text] The Syrians are continuing to pave roads in Lebanon and are gradually gaining control of areas which were under the Christians' control. It appears the Syrians want to slowly take over the Lebanese coastal plain where there is a large Christian concentration. The Syrian advance covers several hundred meters each day. The Syrian Army units in Lebanon follow in the footsteps of the road engineers. An examination of the process proves that in recent years the Syrians have taken over very large areas which had previously been controlled by the Christians. In a year, this slow progress would result in a Syrian takeover.

The process began in 1975 and 1976. In the course of the civil war the leftist Lebanese forces took control of extensive lands between Beirut and Zahlah. Zahlah remained a Christian enclave. In June 1978 Franjiyah withdrew from the Lebanese front and turned toward the Syrians. The entire area of northern Lebanon was taken over by the Syrians. In 2 months the Syrians cleared additional extensive areas south of their new deployment line and extended the region under their control. In April 1981 the Syrian momentum was renewed. Zahlah was under seige and SAnnin mountain was occupied. Now too the Syrian advance is continuing. Step by step the Syrians occupy more and more land. Toward the winter it is feared that the Syrians will try to continue to progress in the direction of the coastal plan and Juniyah. Last winter Juniyah was already within the range of Syrian cannons.

UNIFIL SPOKESMAN: S. LEBANON CEASE-FIRE CONTINUES

TA021626 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Report by IDF radio correspondent Menahem Horovitz]

[Text] UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel insists that the cease-fire in southern Lebanon continues. There have been a few violations, but they have not been serious.

When we say that there are grave violations of the cease-fire, we have in mind incidents that we can observe. According to him, there is no official document defining what a truce violation is. Hence, it is not clear whether the murder of the teacher from the village of Dibbin in southern Lebanon by terrorists about a week ago can be described as a cease-fire violation.

In answering a question about what steps are being taken to maintain the cease-fire, Timur Goksel said that at present mediation activities are being conducted in southern Lebanon between all the parties involved in the conflict. Timur Goksel said there are also higher-level bodies that are involved in the cease-fire in southern Lebanon. UNIFIL is implementing the cease-fire on instructions from UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

The spokesman pointed out that with the reconstruction of the bridges over the Litani and Az-Zaharini Rivers, destroyed by the Israeli Air Force, the economic well-being of southern Lebanese residents will improve. The bridges, Goksel emphasized, are being rebuilt by Lebanese soldiers.

LEBANESE CHRISTIANS ANNOUNCE SEVERING ISRAELI TIES

Step in Syrian Takeover

TA031616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Report by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] The Christians' announcement of their readiness to sever ties with Israel is in fact another step in the process of the Syrian takeover of Lebanon. What the Syrians either did not manage or were unable to do through military operations in Zahlah, or the Sannin hills, they are now trying to achieve with the help of political pressure.

Israeli circles have pointed out the consistent Syrian erosion of the territory under the Christians' influence in Lebanon as an indication of the Syrians' intentions. Before the Syrian Army entered Lebanon on 1 January 1976, the areas under Christian influence were rather extensive, but they have since diminished. The Syrians and the terrorists first took over the southern part of the area along the Beirut-Damascus axis except for the Zahlah salient. In June 1978 forces backed by Syria took control of a wide strip of land in northern Lebanon and in August 1978 the Syrians expanded the area under conquest and stretched more to the south, and in April 1981 they besieged Zahlah and conquered the Sannin hills, which is the ridge overlooking the roads to the coastal plains.

Today, the Syrian encroachment continues and the attempt to push aside the Lebanese has become a routine affair. The Syrians build new roads in the Lebanon hills and have extended their transportation axes toward the coast. As a result, the terrorists acting with Syrian inspiration and encouragement have also strengthened their hold and footing in Lebanon. Last year 1,700 terrorists trained in Lebanon, among them members of international terrorist organizations that are supported by the Soviet Union. The Christians' statement last night should therefore be regarded as another step in the process of subduing the Christians and turning Lebanon into a Syrian base and a military support area for Syria and the terrorists.

S. Lebanese Christians React

TA030628 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Report by correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] The report on the announcement [on cutting ties with Israel] by the Christians in the north of Lebanon reached southern Lebanon late last night and the initial reaction was amazement, expression of disbelief and one could even say astonishment. These proposals constitute part of the political game and maneuvers, people here said.

However, the spiritual and blood ties between the Christians in the north and their brethren in the south will not be cut. It is important to note that Major Haddad had, in the past, repeated his declaration of support for the Christians of northern Lebanon and had even offered to send army personnel from his forces as reinforcements to his besieged brethren. Haddad has always regarded the Christians in the north and the south as one national entity and said that Israel is the only country in the region that understands this and extends military and moral support to the Christians. In the past, he came out with harsh remarks on Syria, whose aspirations to set up the large Syrian empire are, according to him, the central reason for all of the Lebanese Christians' plights.

Right now, people in southern Lebanon are still waiting for fuller details of Sham'un's statement of last night and the reactions for the moment are, to repeat, those of amazement and lack of understanding.

Jerusalem 'Unimpressed'

TA031019 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Sep 81 p 1

[Report by Arye Tzimuqi and Eytan Haber]

[Text] Jerusalem has refrained from reacting to the reports on the pledge made by the leaders of the Christians in Lebanon to cut their ties with Israel.

It looks as though Jerusalem is unimpressed and not excited about these reports and continues to closely follow events and developments in Lebanon.

Comment on Announcements

TA031017 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Sep 81 p 12

[Military correspondent 'Oded Granot report]

[Text] The leaders of the Lebanese Christians last night appeared to be capitulating to pressure from Syria and Saudi Arabia to make a public announcement on severing all ties with Israel to make the inter-Arab contacts toward solving the Lebanese crisis easier.

The way the statement by the "Lebanese Front" (uniting the major Christian groups) was worded in effect adopted the letter written by the military commander of the Christian Phalangists, Bashir al-Jumayyil, submitted to President Sarkis in July, in which the former had announced the Christians' intentions of severing contacts with Israel.

Yet it appears that this announcement by the "Lebanese Front" makes the severance of ties with Israel conditional on a total cut of aid in arms and equipment Syria has been giving to the terrorists in Lebanon by land and sea.

As opposed to this, the leaders of the Lebanese left and the terrorists argue that the announcement made last night by the Christian leaders, like Al-Jumayyil's letter to Sarkis earlier, are worded in an obscure manner and leave enough room for doubt as to the Christians' real intention of carrying out their commitment on cutting ties with Israel. They demand that the Christians allow pan-Arabs or Syrian supervision of the port of Juniyah in Lebanon, which is under the Christians' control and which, according to the leftists and the terrorists, serves as a place where arms and equipment from Israel arrive and a location that helps sustain the Israeli-Christian connections.

However, at least on the face of things, the "Lebanese Front" declaration of last night contributed toward creating the proper atmosphere toward the convening of the inter-Arab "follow-up committee" in Lebanon today, its goal being to work out formulas to solve the crisis in that country and establish "national conciliation."

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, who are members of that committee, arrived in Beirut already yesterday and conferred with President Sarkis (who heads the committee).

Earlier, in Syria, they met with President Hafiz al-Asad on the same subject. Today the Syrian foreign minister, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and the secretary of the Arab League are also expected to arrive in Lebanon to participate in the committee's deliberations.

The Christian Phalangists' mouthpiece, "AL-'AMAL," hinted yesterday that the Christians' announcement on their readiness to cut all ties with Israel was made in order to forestall charges that the Christian front is responsible for the failure of the attempts to solve the Lebanese problem.

Ilan Kfir, MA'ARIV's political correspondent adds: The announcement of the Christian leaders in Lebanon that they are cutting their ties with Israel was received with surprise and some confusion in Jerusalem. Despite the announcement, the inclination in Jerusalem is to continue to guarantee Israel's commitment to support them in the future if there is danger to their independent physical existence in Lebanon.

PERES 'HINTS' AT TALKS WITH SAUDIS ON RED SEA

TA021817 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres hinted today that he held talks with the Saudis on an Israeli-Saudi arrangement regarding the Red Sea. Peres spoke at an Alignment meeting in Bet Berl.

In reaction to the Saudi Middle East plan, Peres said he rejected the conditions presented by Saudi Arabia but proposed that negotiations be conducted without preconditions. Regarding the Red Sea, Mr Peres said: I talked with the Saudis and they did not make light of it, nor did the Americans. [sentence as heard]

Peres did not make clear when and under which circumstances he had held talks with Saudi representatives.

More on Peres, Saudi Talks

TA030808 Jerusalem POST in English 3 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Labour Party Chairman Shim'on Peres revealed yesterday that he had a discussion with a Saudi Arabian representative about possible cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Israel to police the Red Sea.

Peres said this at a meeting of the Alignment Knesset faction at the Bet Berl Labour College near Kefar Sava. He did not say where or when the conversation took place.

The Jerusalem POST understands that the conversation took place in a London hotel earlier this year, with a prince of the Saudi royal house, who agreed to meet Peres privately following the mediation of a British politician.

Peres told the faction that the Saudi representative posed unacceptable conditions to such possible cooperation over the Red Sea. However, Peres said, he told his interlocutor that the two countries should seek a basis for collaboration on this issue which was to their mutual benefit.

Turning to party affairs, Peres said that the Alignment had let its voters down in the June 30 election by playing into the hands of the Likud. "If we fail our public once again, we shall sustain a blow from which there may be no recovery," he warned. "We must not let our weaknesses strengthen the Likud. In another defeat, we shall all go down together," he said, in what was taken by his hearers as a hint in the direction of challenger Yitzhaq Rabin.

MERIDOR TO HEAD MINISTERIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

TA020832 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Sep 81 p 7

[Text] The government plans to establish a special ministerial committee for planning and economic coordination, to be headed by Minister Ya'aqov Meridor.

This ministerial committee will mainly handle coordination of interministerial projects and of long-range economic planning. The permanent ministerial committee for economic affairs, which will be headed by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, will operate in parallel. So far the government has not yet appointed the permanent ministerial committees.

The Ministry for Economic Coordination will receive charge of the Economic Planning Authority, which is currently subordinate to the Finance Ministry. It has been learned that there is no intention of transferring any additional government units--such as the Central Bureau of Statistics--to the new ministry. Minister Meridor wants to have control over the planning and execution of national projects that would advance Israel toward economic independence.

KIMCHE TO RETIRE, BAR-ON TO SUCCEED TO POST

TA031225 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Sep 81 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Uzi Benziman]

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche will retire in a year and will be replaced by the present deputy director general, Hanan Bar-on. Such a decision was recently agreed upon by various cabinet members.

Kimche is slated to fill another civil service post upon his retirement from the Foreign Ministry. Bar-on is a veteran foreign ministry employee and, among other jobs he held, he was spokesman for the ministry and minister in the Israeli Embassy in Washington. At present he is in charge of handling the ministry's relations with the United States. Kimche was appointed director general of the foreign ministry by Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The two met while in service in the Mossad.

WEST BANK TRADE UNIONS SPLIT INTO FACTIONS

TA021435 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] The trade unions in Judaea and Samaria have split into a communist faction and a faction sympathetic to the rejectionist organizations. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that the rejectionists boycotted elections for the communist association held in Nabulus last month. The rejectionists recently decided to establish an association of their own, led by Nabulus trade unionist Shihadah An-nawi. Our correspondent remarks that the new association failed to ask for approval from the military administration.

Unions in east Jerusalem participated in elections for the directorate of the rejectionist faction despite a ban by the military administration. Representatives from east Jerusalem participated in elections to the communist association as observers.

SUSPENDED W. BANK TEACHERS RETURNED TO WORK

TA311311 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 31 Aug 81

[Text] The military administration in Judaea and Samaria returned to work twelve teachers who had been suspended for their activity in the teachers' committees in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent, Arye Gus, says their reemployment is meant to create a better atmosphere on the opening of the school year.

ALGERIA

TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH PRESIDENT

LD022215 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali arrived in Algiers this morning. He went straight to the Presidential Palace where he was welcomed by the Algerian president, Chadli Bendjedid. The prime minister conveyed President Habib Bourguiba's greetings to his brother the Algerian president. He also renewed to the Algerian president the invitation to visit Tunisia, which he accepted.

The prime minister stated that his talks with the Algerian president dealt with bilateral relations and cooperation in the economic, trade, social and youth fields. An exchange of views and information about Arab and African issues, in the forefront of which was the Western Sahara issue, also took place, he added.

The views of both sides on these questions were in harmony and aimed at the same noble objectives with the conviction that dialogue and negotiation were the best means to overcome the accumulated problems over the years, he concluded.

Present at the meeting were Mr Mohammad ibn Ahmad 'Abd al-Ghani, [name indistinct] and ambassadors of both countries. The meeting lasted 1 hour and 20 minutes. The prime minister's delegation includes the minister of foreign affairs, Belui Caid es-Sebsi; the minister of finance and planning, Mansour Moalla; and the minister of youth and sports, Mohammed Kraiem.

LIBYA

VISITING ROMANIAN OFFICIAL MEETS WITH LEADERS

AU021855 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1600 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Comrade Aurel Duma, secretary of the National Council of the Socialist Democracy and Unity Front and minister secretary of state at the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is participating in the Tripoli festivities occasioned by the 12th anniversary of revolution day, met with 'Abd as-Salam az-Zaq'ar, secretary of the General People's Committee for Petroleum and chairman of the Libyan side in the Joint Romanian-Libyan Governmental Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation, and with Muhammad az-Zarruq Rajab, secretary general of the General People's Congress [title as heard]. During the talks, the sides pointed out the upward course of bilateral relations and emphasized the importance of meetings between President Nicolae Ceausescu and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for expanding ties of friendship between the two countries and peoples.

On this occasion the sides discussed ways and means to develop and diversify trade relations and economic and technical cooperation to the mutual benefit of both countries. The Libyan officials highly praised the support granted by Romania and Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu personally in implementing the program for socioeconomic development of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The sides also exchanged views on key international issues.

JALLUD MEETS WITH MADAGASCAR PRESIDENT 2 SEP

LD030836 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Sep (JANA)--A working session was held at noon yesterday between Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud and president of Madagascar, Didier Ratsiraka, in the presence of both delegations.

The development and promotion of bilateral relations in a manner that would serve the common aims and interests of the two countries were discussed at this meeting and positive steps were taken in this respect. African and Arab issues were also discussed at this meeting within the framework of supporting liberation forces in the world and in accordance with the resolution of the conference of solidarity with the people of the Jamahiriyah to support the initiative of the leader to make the Jamahiriyah an international center for the struggle against imperialism.

NEW CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC REGIME RECOGNIZED

LD021500 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Sep (JANA)--JANA has learned that the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has officially recognized the new regime in the Central African Republic that assumed power yesterday in the wake of the overthrow of David Dacko's regime.

CHAD LEADER'S 1 SEP REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY SPEECH

LD020337 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1711 GMT 1 Sep 81

[Speech by Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei at a workers rally marking the 12th anniversary of the Libyan revolution, at Al-Khadra square in Tripoli; live in French with superimposed Arabic translation]

[Text] Dear brothers, leaders of the Great 1 September Revolution, Mr President, your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of the Chadian people, the government, the delegation accompanying me and myself, I have the great pleasure of addressing to Your Excellency and your brother people of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah the most fraternal thanks for the warm welcome extended to us.

I also take the opportunity offered me today to reiterate from this rostrum my deepest gratitude for the multifaceted assistance granted on equal terms by the Libyan people to the people of Chad in their struggle against imperialism and neocolonialism.

Through our presence here we want to show the support we give to your struggle against the enemies of Africa who continue to oppress the people fighting for their emancipation from other continents. In this spirit of solidarity we support the cause of the Palestinian people in their struggle to recover their inalienable rights, as well as the right of Namibia to independence.

It is with indignation that we have learned of the aggressive action carried out by South Africa against Angola, as well as that of the Americans against the fraternal Libyan people. We condemn unequivocally these two savage actions, which by their very nature are contrary to the general principles of international law, (?worsen) relations between states and thus disturb world peace.

Dear brothers, leaders of the Great 1 September Revolution, (?you feel just as we do)--that the call launched by the Transition Government of National Union for the consolidation of the unity and reconstruction of Chad remains relevant because apart from the aid granted by your country [word indistinct] for the implementation of the [word indistinct] objectives, we have not yet seen concrete contributions from other (?African) states, which we are eagerly awaiting. We also believe we can count on you, on your permanent availability to act as our intermediary in obtaining aid from other countries and international bodies.

Long live Chadian-Libyan friendship. Long live African unity. Long live international cooperation. [applause]

SOLIDARITY WITH LIBYA CONFERENCE 31 AUG SPEECHES

LD011144 Tripoli JANA in English 0918 GMT 1 Sep 81

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Sep (JANA)--The international conference of solidarity with the Jamahiriyah people held its final session last night. This was attended by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, President Ratsiraka of Madagascar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat, member of the directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and coordinator in the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, leaders from the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement, as well as a large number of delegations attending the national celebrations of the 12th anniversary of the Great al-Fatih Revolution.

The final session was attended by the Chairman of the P. L. O. Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat, who, in his speech, welcomed delegations attending that conference. He said: "We welcome you to the Jamahiriyah which, as my brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, guardian of Arab nationalism, had earlier said, is not only a local center, but also a wide base against imperialism, Zionism and reaction."

Mr 'Arafat expressed the Palestinian people and revolution's solidarity with the Libyan Arab people's confrontation against all imperialism, Zionism and reactionary conspiracies, under the leadership of America. He continued: "Your meeting here in the name of the world's free peoples has shown total solidarity with the Jamahiriyah's people and historic leadership.

"This conference is also a manifestation of support for our entire Arab nation.

"I salute my Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for his revolutionary initiative of forming an international front against imperialism, Zionism, reaction and racial segregation based in the Jamahiriyah.

"The American aggression against the Jamahiriyah was no mere act of chance but a preplanned conspiracy.

"This open American challenge against Libya is also a challenge to entire Arab nation and the world's progressive and freedom forces."

Mr 'Arafat continued: "The repeated Zionist attack against the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese patriotic movement and Lebanese people in southern Lebanon recently are part of the dangerous American conspiracy directed against the Arab nation and implemented by the parties to the Camp David accords. Aggression against the Jamahiriyah, the strike against Iraq's nuclear installations, and the repeated Zionist attacks against the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese people are ample proof of this."

He said: "The leader of terrorism, America, is seeking to contain the Arab region and exploit its riches. Egypt has been effectively withdrawn from the Arab-Israel struggle and rendered a base for anti-Arab action and the American Rapid Deployment Force.

"Furthermore, bases at Berbera and Mogadishu in Somalia and al-Masirah in Oman have also been transformed for the same purpose....

"In the name of all free and honest people in the Arab nation, we affirm our determination to continue our confrontation and struggle. Much as the joint Lebanese-Palestinian forces have resisted aggression, our Arab nation will resist all imperialism, Zionism and reactionary conspiracies and plans.

Proof of this has come through the resistance shown by our Libyan pilots to the 6th fleet's arrogance in the Gulf of Sidra and Syrian people's confrontation of Israel."

The president of Madagascar, Didier Ratsiraka, delivered a speech praising the Libyan Arab people's struggle against American imperialism, Zionism and reaction. He said: "I congratulate Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for taking the decision of confronting the strongest imperialist force in the world....

"The U.S. imperialist aggression against the Libyan Arab people was no mere act of chance. It was planned for by the Reagan administration which knows that the Great al-Fatih Revolution is working seriously and with dedication in supporting world liberation movements."

The Madagascar president called on African and Arab peoples to express solidarity with the Libyan Arab people in facing imperialist and Zionist challenges. He also praised the role of the Al-Fatih Revolution in convincing most African countries to cut off their relations with Israel.

President Ratsiraka condemned the treachery of Egypt's ruler and others. He said: "In spite of the treachery of some in the African Continent and the Arab nation, revolution any place in the region will work faithfully and ceaselessly in support of the just struggle of the Palestinian and Lebanese people and African liberation movements until final victory."

He also condemned the imperialist aggression committed by the racist South African regime against Angola. He said his country's people will always struggle against imperialism, Zionism and racism, and express support for the Arab nation's struggle against them until all usurped lands are returned to the Palestinian people.

Ratsiraka called on world progressive revolutionary forces to coordinate their policies in facing imperialism, Zionism and reaction so that final victory may be achieved. He said his country strongly supports the friendship and cooperation agreement signed by the Arab and Ethiopian nations for facing imperialist and Zionist conspiracies, describing the agreement as being both historic and strategic.

Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, member of the directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government of national reconstruction, took the platform next. After conveying the wishes of the Nicaraguan people to the people of the Jamahiriyah and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the Nicaraguan leader said the world has become aware of centres of terrorism, domination and aggression. The people know full well, he said, those who support regimes of crime and exploitation and encourage subversive activities against revolutionary leaders. However, he added, we can state there are also popular centres for the resistance and confrontation of such terrorism.

Daniel Ortega continued: "We can positively say the Jamahiriyah has become a centre for the resistance and confrontation of imperialism and colonialism." He noted that the demands made by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in his speech at the opening of the international conference of solidarity with the Jamahiriyah people will be readily accepted and the Jamahiriyah will become an international resistance centre against imperialism, lackey reaction and racism in all its forms.

Commander Daniel Ortega said: "We cannot but offer our unlimited support to the leader's call, because we are convinced that the oppressed people fighting for liberation and revolutionary people exposed to attack can depend on the Jamahiriyah as a confrontation front and a fortress capable of protecting them from the threats of the reactionary forces. It is by this assurance that the revolutionary forces can triumph over their common enemy."

The Nicaraguan leader commented on the solidarity between the revolution in the Jamahiriyah and Nicaragua, saying: "Imperialist forces fear the solidarity between our two peoples. The Nicaraguan people is, however, awake, revolutionary and intent on having its word heard at the centre of resistance against imperialism, as well as its condemnation of the aggression against the Angolan people and its support for the people of Namibia."

He continued to express the Nicaraguan people's wish to state their readiness to stand against colonialism and racism. He added that Nicaraguan people hold respect for the Libyan Arabs and their leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and that the two peoples are fighting for peace and oppose imperialism. He said: "We wish to unite for a joint cause because we are a vital part of the Palestinian people's struggle, which exposes us to imperialist aggression and threats."

In conclusion, the Nicaraguan leader saluted the international conference of solidarity with the Jamahiriyah people, affirming the Nicaraguan people's readiness to fight by all means to reach final victory.

In his own speech the executive secretary general of the Lebanese National Movement Mr. Mushin Ibrahim expressed pride and total solidarity with the Great al-Fatih Revolution and its leader's heroic confrontation against U.S. aggression in the Gulf of Sidra.

Mr. Ibrahim welcomed the revolutionary appeal made by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in the conference calling for the creation of an international anti-imperialist front based in the Jamahiriyah. He added: "It is a duty of all free men and fighters for liberation in the Arab nation to heed this revolutionary call by translating it into solid action." In this respect he pointed to the signing of the friendship and cooperation treaty by the Jamahiriyah, Democratic Yemen and Ethiopia. He said this treaty helps in escalating the Arab nation's struggle against imperialism and Zionism and transferring from the position of defence to the offensive.

He continued: "The Lebanese National Movement will take up Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's call by forming a revolutionary front, and pledges that it will continue its strategic alliance with the Palestinian revolution and Syria in defence of Lebanon's unity and the continuation of the Arab nation's struggle with Israel. All this will be implemented with total backing from the Great al-Fatih Revolution, which has not refused us any support."

Mr Ibrahim concluded: "We say to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, as he has often told us: You are not alone in the battle for maintaining Lebanon's Arab character.... We say to you today that you are not alone in your defence against [as received] the Jamahiriyah. For we are all with you so that our Jamahiriyah may remain a steadfast bastion against all imperialist conspiracies and plans."

Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud delivered a speech in which he welcomed the Palestinian revolution represented by Yasir 'Arafat, the president of Madagascar Didier Ratsiraka, the leader of the Nicaraguan people's revolution Daniel Ortega and all other participating delegations in this international conference. Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud affirmed the inevitability of the Libyan Arab people's victory in the battle against colonialist, fascist and reactionary forces. He said: All democratic revolutionary forces and peoples stand beside the Libyan against terroristic and aggressive conspiracies and plans.

Staff Major Jallud praised the strong stand taken by democratic forces towards the Vietnamese people's cause, stating that this role helped in defeating American imperialism in Vietnam. He pointed to the severe blows inflicted by revolutionary forces to colonialism for the affirmation of people's freedom.

He said: "The international conference for solidarity with the Jamahiriyah people has realized concrete and continuous political action in its being watched closely by American colonialist and reactionary forces, especially because of its importance in successfully launching the counter offensive against them." He further expressed hope that this international gathering will rise to the level of the challenges being faced by various peoples.

In this respect, he pointed to the importance of the points dealt with in Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's speech to the conference, where he suggested practical proposals to translate a political action taken by this conference into freedom-fighting struggle with definite goals and means. He said: "All organizations, parties and associations participating in this conference represent a formidable political force having material and propagandistic resources, committing it into shouldering responsibilities for taking up its role in struggle."

Staff Major Jallud expressed satisfaction at the concepts formulated by participants in this conference being held in Libya, pointing out that "we in the country of direct people's democracy respect all political ideas and convictions. Democracy is the basis of all integrated actions and success. Any action that is not based on democratic projects will ultimately end in total failure." He said: This giant meeting place for more than two hundred organizations and eighty countries has in their hands the power of resolving crucial issues.

He said: "These forces should be mobilized to confront imperialism, Zionism and reaction, and carry the responsibility of decisions made by this conference, in spite of all attempts made by the American administration at false accusations against all participants here. This administration also attempted to levy false accusations against the Jamahiriyah's people and the revolution's leader through their (?media) and the CIA."

He said peoples from the world's five continents are gathered here to witness this: Libya is a centre for resisting anti-American [as received] terror. It is not a centre for terrorism. He added that this is a testimony held with pride by the Libyan Arab people: "This conference has given the Libyan Arab people new responsibilities in resisting American terrorism in its furious forms, whether psychological, technological or military."

The terrorist practice by America has made it forfeit its role as a superpower participating with the Soviet Union in the maintenance of world peace.

The United States mobilized all its resources to implement such ridiculous action as the assassination of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. "Is this action commensurate with the United States' standing as a superpower?" Staff Major Jallud said this and other absurd actions have made America lose her right in championing human rights at a time when it seizes the freedom of its black citizens. He denied American allegations that the U.S. is the leader of Free World, stating that this allegation is contrary to its terrorist and cynical actions.

He said the American plan for the assassination of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stripped America of all its humanitarian pretenses. He said the Libyan Arab people who faced American aggression courageously has surpassed the stage of dependence on persons: "We have established people's congress and committees to affirm the freedom and sovereignty of the people.

"The American attempt at assassinating Colonel al-Qadhdhafi was also directed at the very assassination of the Libyan people. Yet the Libyan people who were not terrorized by the forces of fascist invaders, armless as they were, are not afraid of foiling all American terrorist conspiracies, armed as they are today.

"The people are capable of facing aggression, and the American President should be ashamed of his lowly action, which reached the depths of this despair and weakness."

He continued: "America believes that Libya is like any other nations which it can do what it wants with. Yet this is a base formulation of reality. In this country there are people who have moved in support of our leader, and we are prepared to die for him. The Libyan people are all one Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi."

He said the solidarity of this conference's democratic forces with the Jamahiriyah's people is a source of pride that will inspire us into carrying out our international role for freedom and in the liberation of man from all forms of oppression and justice. [as received]

He added: "By committing her flagrant aggression against the Libyan Arab people, the United States was fully aware that Libyan soil is the basic springboard for all world liberation movements. But Jamahiriyah will remain a bastion for revolutionaries and an international centre for resisting imperialism. America should realize that the Libyans are an armed people--free, revolutionary and bold, fearless of any threats."

He expressed gratitude for the international testimony presented by the conference to Libya and said: "We shall take all decisions which we believe are historically sound and accept their consequences. We feel that the conference's testimony regarding our support for liberation movements is the clearest indication of the soundness of our people's revolutionary policy."

Staff Major Jallud strongly attacked the misleading propaganda campaign launched by the western media against the Jamahiriyah. He said Western newspapers are being used to disseminate psychological terror against our peoples in a desperate attempt to contain our support for liberation movements. He added that such campaigns will not affect us because of our belief in the soundness of our positions and our international role freely exercised in support of liberation movements.

He said: "Our revolution derived its importance from our freedom-fighting role in the international revolutionary movement."

Staff Major Jallud said America will continue describing the Jamahiriyah as a terrorist country because in its own logic, support for liberation movements is tantamount to terrorism. But he added that this American testimony is held proudly by the Libyan Arab people. He said the world acknowledges the Libyan Arab people's leadership in the freedom-fighting movement against imperialism, reaction and American terrorism.

He added: "In spite of the world's acknowledgement that Libya is a centre for resisting international terrorism led by America, America will continue to transmit its false accusations against the Libyan Arab people. Our people will not support terrorism. It will resist injustice, exploitation and colonialism."

He said the decision taken by the international conference for solidarity with the Jamahiriyah's people making Libya a base for anticolonialist activity should be relayed and recorded by the United Nations. He added: "The Libyan people, by the will of God and faith in themselves, democratic and socialist forces and the Arab nation, will defeat America. The decision to resist American arrogance at the Gulf of Sidra is only the beginning.

"Political and social forces and world public opinion should be monopolised in an international campaign against America so that it may be forced to retreat to its own borders and realise that the stage of political struggle and development of the socialist democratic movement has come of age. America should withdraw to its borders and respect the peoples of the world."

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

KOLINGBA DENIES U.S. PLAYED ROLE IN 1 SEP COUP

AB021318 Paris AFP in French 1234 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Paris, 2 Sep (AFP)--The new CAR head of state, Gen Andre Kolingba, categorically denied on Wednesday that the United States had a role to play in the coup d'etat which enabled him to take power.

Asked by telephone, by Antenne 2, about reports that have appeared in the French press on this subject, General Kolingba replied: It is false as false can be. He admitted receiving a courtesy call from the United States ambassador, but said he had not held special talks with the Americans.

KOLINGBA MEETS WITH AMBASSADORS, GABONESE ENVOY

AB022220 Bangui Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Statement by Capt Pierre Lago, spokesman of the Military Committee for National Redress, on 2 September--recorded]

[Excerpts] After setting up the Military Committee for National Redress, Gen Andre Kolingba, head of state, and (?some members of the committee) assumed their functions today. This morning, ministers of state, ministers and secretaries of state of the Military Committee for National Redress went to their respective ministries and then with members of the former government undertook the necessary handing over of service. During this time, the head of state submitted himself to a schedule prepared by the Office of Protocol. He received in succession diplomats accredited to our country: their excellencies the ambassadors of the FRG, China, Korea and Gabon. Mr Juvenal, a professional journalist representing AFP, interviewed the head of state this morning.

In the afternoon, General Kolingba continued to receive diplomats.

An envoy from the office of the president of the Republic of Gabon bearing a personal message from the Gabonese head of state, His Excellency el-Hadj Omar Bongo, to the chairman of the Military Committee for National Redress, was the last of those received in audience by the head of state. This special envoy (?was received) in an audience during which he stressed the bonds of friendship linking the CAR and the Republic of Gabon.

CAR OPPOSITION PARTIES WELCOME ARMY TAKEOVER

AB022024 Paris AFP in French 1731 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Bangui, 2 Sep (AFP)--The CAR opposition parties meeting under the Provisional Political Council [Conseil Politique Provisoire] [CPP] have welcomed with satisfaction the takeover by the national army.

In a letter sent to President Andre Kolingba today, Ange Patasse of the Central African People's Liberation Movement, Henri Maidou of the Republican Progress Party, Francois Pehoua of the Independent Group for Reflection and Political Action, and the representative of Abel Goumba of the Ubangi Patriotic Front-Labor Party feel that the action of the army, while avoiding unnecessary losses in human life, has saved the country from the impasse into which it had been driven by the irresponsible, antidemocratic and unpopular regime of David Dacko and his Central African Democratic Union.

However, the CPP explains that the action of the army is transitional. They hope it will be brief because, they explain, the true reconstruction of the country's political life can only be achieved after the reestablishment of the democratic institutions envisaged in the 5 February 1981 Constitution.

After being informed of the temporary suspension of the constitution and of party politics, the leaders of the former political parties expressed their conviction that recovery necessarily comes about through unity, national concordance and the mobilization of all the country's active forces within the different mass organizations, principally in the political parties.

They declared themselves in favor of consultations and expressed their readiness to search with President Kolingba for the most appropriate ways of finding a real solution to the problem of national recovery.

CHAD

TWO CHADIAN SOLDIERS EXECUTED; MERCY PLEA REFUSED

AB021550 Paris AFP in French 1424 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 2 Sep (AFP)--Two Chadian soldiers, who had been condemned to death on Friday by a military tribunal, were executed in Ndjamena yesterday in the presence of several thousand people. This was learned from the Chadian capital today.

The military tribunal, which was established at the end of last July following a wave of murders and kidnappings in Ndjamena, sat for the first time on Friday. It will sit again on Saturday to try 10 other soldiers accused of murdering a lieutanant in the Chadian Armed Forces.

After the verdict, Abakar Mahamat, one of the two soldiers executed yesterday, pleaded for mercy from Goukouni Oueddei, president of the Transitional National Union Government. But this was refused.

During the audience on Friday, Mr Aknadali, the government's commissioner, noted that in Chad there is a government and a rule of law and that those who kill should know that they can also be killed.

EQUITORIAL GUINEA

COMMUNIQUE ON MBAZOGO VISIT TO "'GERIA REPORTED

AB311746 Malabo Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 21 Aug 81

[Excerpts] This morning, the city of Malabo welcomed His Excellency Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council, upon his return from the Federal Republic of Nigeria where he had been on a 3-day official visit.

The conclusions of this historic visit are summarized in the following joint communique:

At the invitation of Alhaji Shehu Shagari, president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, president of the Supreme Military Council of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, made a state visit to Nigeria 27-30 August 1981. The head of state of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea was accompanied by His Excellency Maye Ela, first vice president of the Supreme Military Council and minister of the interior; His Excellency Policarpo Mansu Mba, minister of justice; His Excellency Cristino Seriche Biok, minister of health; His Excellency Marcos Mba Ondo, minister of finance and commerce; His Excellency Celestino (Mandago Nseng), premanent secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs; His Excellency (Palepale Mina), permanent secretary in the Ministry of Interior; His Excellency [name indistinct], permanent secretary for planning, economic development and cooperation; His Excellency [name indistinct], director for Africa, Asia and Middle and Far East in the Ministry of External Affairs; and His Excellency Juan Micha Nsue Nfumu, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to Nigeria.

The president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, was assisted by His Excellency Dr Alex Ekwueme, vice president of the Republic; His Excellency Prof Ishaya Audu, minister of external affairs; His Excellency Alhaji Maduike, minister of education; His Excellency Alhaji Iro Dan Musa, minister of civil aviation; His Excellency Issac Shaahu, minister of communications; His Excellency Adebisi Ogendengbe, minister of employment, labor and productivity; His Excellency Sylvester Ugoh, minister of science and technology; His Excellency Victor Masi, minister of finance; His Excellency Alhaji [name indistinct], minister of state for education; His Excellency (Ismeal Usmani), minister of state for industry; His Excellency Alhaji (Yaya Dikko), special adviser on petroleum and energy; and other high officials of government.

On arrival in Lagos, President Obiang Nguema Mbazogo was given a warm and enthusiastic welcome by the president of the people and the Federal Republic of Nigeria. During the state visit, the president of the Supreme Military Council, Col Obiang Nguema Mbazogo, placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Tafewa Balewa square in Lagos. The guest and members of his suite then visited places of interest such as the Volkswagen plant on [name indistinct] street and the black African arts and civilization center. This provided an opportunity for an appreciation of Nigerian socio-economic life.

The two heads of state held talks on bilateral relations between Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea and exchanged views on a wide range of subjects relating to current international and African problems. In their analysis of bilateral relations, President Shehu Shagari and President Nguema Mbazogo discussed at length, and decided to try to promote, relations between the two countries. To that end, they agreed that law enforcement agents should be made sufficiently aware of their primary role of protecting the lives and property of nationals in each other's country.

The two heads of state signed a cooperation agreement on economic, scientific and technical matters. They noted the need to extend cooperation to the fields of friendship, good neighborliness, trade telecommunications, labor and culture as a means of strengthening ties.

On African problems, the two presidents expressed concern, indignation and disappointment over the unresolved situation in southern Africa and their dissatisfaction with the failure of the Geneva conference on Namibia while strongly condemning South Africa's continued military incursions into independent African countries, particularly the recent invasion of Angola. The two leaders considered the irresponsible action by the racist South African regime to be a serious threat to peace in that region and called on the international community to reject all efforts to install an antidemocratic and nonrepresentative government, while reaffirming their faith in the full application of UN Resolution 435.

BRIEFS

USSR DONATION TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA--Yesterday morning, the first vice-president of the Supreme Military Council and commissioner of state for foreign affairs, Mr Florencio Maye Ela, received the USSR charge d'affaires in Malabo who informed him that the USSR Red Cross and Crescent have decided to donate medical instruments and drugs, including various types of vaccines, to the people of Equatorial Guinea. [Malabo Domestic Service in Spanish 0600 GMT 27 Aug 81 AB]

SPANISH GIFT TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA--Last Saturday the Spanish ambassador to Equatorial Guinea presented 6 fishing boats to the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry. [Malabo Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 24 Aug 81 AB]

OUTGOING GABONESE ENVOY TO CONGO--The speaker of the People's National Assembly, Comrade Jean Ganga (Zazou), this morning received the Gabonese ambassador to Congo, Mr Samuel Mbaye, who bade him farewell. In answer to a question concerning his new post, the ambassador disclosed that he was going to represent his country in Paris. [Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 25 Aug 81 AB]

GHANA

BELIEVER URGES RENEWAL OF TIES WITH ISRAEL

AB021838 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] In an editorial, the BELIEVER urges the government and other African countries to renew diplomatic relations with Israel. It notes that even Egypt, which led the Arabs in the war against Israel, has now realized that it should live in peace with Israel.

LIBERIA

HEAD OF STATE DOE FREES 'POLITICAL PRISONERS'

AB021658 Monrovia Radio Elwa in English 1600 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] With the advice and consent of the PRC [People's Redemption Council] Government, the Head of State and Chairman of the PRC Government Samuel Kanyon Doe today freed a number of political prisoners. And for more on that, we now join the head of state:

[Begin recording] Mr John B. McClain, former minister of information, is hereby granted freedom from life imprisonment. Two: Those sentenced to 10 years imprisonment are hereby also free. They are: Lt Gen (Wora Akolato), Col Joseph B. (Solo), Col (Arthur Bedel), Col (Arthur Benson), Maj Thomas (Kresily), Maj William (Elpasuwe). The former members of the Supreme Military Tribunal to be released are: Brig Gen (Francis Fanbuleh), Maj Samuel B. Taylor, Maj J. (Sery Koman). We also are pleased to release Mr. J. (Fotadomba), former superintendent of Nimba County, George (Harens), Joshua (Haman), Joseph (Lenley), Edward Davis, Gen Thomas Saki, Gen Buraima Barclay.

Others being set free today are Sgt Mahami Salif, Sgt Peter (Lookon) and John (Dubi Patrick). It must be carefully noted that anyone found indulging in acts contrary to the interest of the state will face serious consequences. [end recording]

NIGERIA

U.S. VETO AT UN ON ANGOLA ISSUE NOT SURPRISING

Radio Commentary

AB021930 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Robert Zikiti commentary]

[Text] America's vetoing of the resolution [at the United Nations condemning South Africa for its actions in Angola] did not come as a surprise. The action was in consonance with the previous record of how America has been voting in matters affecting South Africa at the United Nations Security Council. What was perhaps surprising is the fact that France and Britain did not vote along with the United States this time. No acceptable explanation has been given for America's action which appears to be a morale booster for the racist forces in their latest invasion of Angola.

The magnitude of the attack on Angola is underscored by the fact that at least six Angolan towns are said to be under siege. Three South African armored columns backed by air fighters are said to be involved in the latest attack on Angola. One of the columns consists of 32 tanks and 82 other vehicles. The South Africans themselves have given casualty figures by announcing that what they called 29 Namibian armed insurgents and 4 of their own soldiers were killed during the recent operations in the South West African zone.

It is impressive to note the response of the government and people of Angola to the latest acts of aggression from Pretoria. The Defense Ministry in Luanda ordered all military personnel to report to their stations within 48 hours in a bid to mobilize all the country's available military capacity. The mobilization effort proved a success and there is a determined attempt to resist the South African forces.

What has continued to attract South African aggression on Angola is that country's determined support for the SWAPO nationalists in Namibia. In this regard, it is remarkable that the latest armed attack coincided with the worldwide observance of Namibia Day. It has further helped to emphasize the need for the international community to make more determined and sustained efforts to free the people of Namibia from the oppressive rule of the racist regime in Pretoria.

We consider as worthwhile the spontaneous condemnations of the latest South African action. From Bonn, London, Sofia, Washington and Paris have come condemnations and warnings that the invasion into Angola bears serious consequences for peace and stability in southern Africa as a whole. But such condemnations have never proved to be enough as they have not helped to curb the South African [word indistinct] from provocative acts of aggression on neighboring countries.

It is hypocritical of America and other Western countries to join in the condemnations of South African aggression while they fail to support moves to isolate the Pretoria regime at the United Nations. The Americans have continued to view the presence of Cuban troops in Angola as unacceptable, but they have refused to use their powers to remove the security factors that make the presence of Cuban personnel in Angola a necessity. In the face of an aggressive and adventurous neighbor such as South Africa, the Angolans reserve the right to take the (?arms) and support other friendly nations. This is in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. That article provides for sovereign states to take individual or collective measures to protect themselves in the case of armed attacks.

It is in fact on this premise that we support whatever measures taken by the Luanda government to protect the security and sovereignty of Angola. We join in calling for an immediate withdrawal of all South African troops presently in or around the borders of Angola.

Press Comment

AB021247 Lagos International Service in English 1030 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Press Review]

[Excerpt] The invasion of Angola by racist South African troops continues to attract comments from the dailies. The NATIONAL CONCORD describes the aggression by the Pretoria regime as an arrogance of power and a design to escalate the tension in that region. It believes that one of the motives behind the latest unprovoked action is to avenge the defeat of South African forces in Angola by the Cubans in 1975 as well as installing rebel UNITA in government. Another motive says the CONCORD, is to delay the process for Namibia's independence. The paper wants African leaders to give serious thought to the need for an African defense force without delay.

On its part, the NEW NIGERIAN condemns the United States for vetoing last Monday's UN resolution condemning apartheid South Africa's invasion. The paper says the American contention that Cuban and Soviet presence in Angola were not mentioned in the UN condemnation is not tenable because the two countries are there as a result of incessant racist incursions.

According to earlier pessimism about the Reagan administration and the U.S. policy towards Africa, the NEW NIGERIAN is therefore not surprised that the American president is behaving true to type.

12 STATES COMPLAIN OF INJUSTICE BY RULING PARTY

WA030900 Enugu DAILY STAR in English 12 Aug 81 p 1

[By Chris Nwokedi and Roy Graham: "Injustice! 12 States Cry Out Against NPN"]

[Text] Twelve States out of 19 controlled by four political parties have complained they have been denied of their constitutional rights by the ruling party--NPN [National Party of Nigeria]

The affected parties are the NPP, UPN [United Party of Nigeria], PRP [People's Redemption Party], and GNPP [Great Nigerian People's Party].

This was the theme of last Monday's Press conference in Enugu by Governors Jim Nwobodo (NPP, Anambra State); Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, (PRP Kano State); Chief Bisi Onabanjo, (UPN, Ogun State) and Alhaji Mohammed Goni, (GNPP, Borno State).

The governors told the newsmen that the constitutional measures being adopted by the ruling party in the governance of the country, had adversely affected the economy of the nation. They said their meeting, therefore, was to work out the best approach to solving the economic problems and also exchange views on various aspects of issues affecting the nation.

Answering a question Governor Nwobodo described as "unconstitutional" the alleged refusal of the Federal Government to grant licences to non-NPN State governments to purchase television equipment.

Chief Nwobodo made it clear that they had never been against the Federal Government installing television houses in every state of the federation but that "it will be undemocratic to deny state governments having their own television houses."

Supporting Governor Nwobodo, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi of Kano State said that under Section 36 of the Constitution every state in the federation had the right to own and operate a television, but regretted that the Federal Government had been making it difficult for the states to carry out their objectives.

Alhaji Rimi emphasised that there was nothing wrong with meetings between governors in the federation, adding that they would continue to explore all areas of possible co-operation to ensure the stability of the nation.

Alhaji Rimi expressed no doubt that the NPP and other parties would fight the 1983 elections as a united party.

Commenting on the Federal Housing Units in Anambra State, Chief Nwobodo condemned the system of awarding contracts without calling for tenders. He also condemned the proposed ration for the distribution of the houses when completed.

Chief Nwobodo disclosed that only five per cent of the Federal Housing Units in the state was being alloted to the state government for distribution; 85 per cent to the Presidential Liaison Officer in the state; while 10 per cent would be shared at Lagos.

He therefore said that his government would not accept the five per cent quota.

Chief Nwobodo explained that in reaction to such unfair treatment by the Federal Government his administration had embarked on 2,000 housing units for the people of Anambra State.

Answering a question on the NPN activities in Ogun State, Chief Onabanjo said that his state was in perfect peace. "The NPN forces are not allowed to get entrenched, but where they are entrenched, we get them uprooted," Governor Onabanjo added.

The visiting governors had since left Enugu for their respective states.

NNPC DIRECTOR COMMENTS ON OIL MARKET SITUATION

AB012222 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 1 Sep 81

[Text] Chief executives of oil-producing companies operating in the country have been urged to explore ways of improving the current situation in the world oil market. The managing director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, Mr Lawrence Amu, gave the advice today in Lagos while discussing [the situation] with the executives. Reviewing the world oil market situation in the last 2 months, Mr Amu observed that price of Nigerian crude oil was no longer competitive since the Federal Government announced big discounts for the prices of the commodity. He noted with regret that the last OPEC meeting ended without a resolution on price unification and pointed out that the deadlock has forced the country to introduce the discounting system so as to improve sales.

On speculation that there may be a further discount, Mr Amu explained that the Federal Government's intention was to wait till the next OPEC ministerial conference.

LAGOS POLICE DENY BAN, UPN LEADER CONNECTED

AB021830 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] The Lagos state police command has said that the ban on public processions and assemblies in the state had nothing to do with the return of the leader of the Unity Party of Nigeria, Chief Obafemi Awolowo. The command's public relations officer told the News Agency of Nigeria that it has positive arrangements to ease traffic congestion and enable public security. He warned the public against playing politics with the activities of the police.

SENEGAL

DIOUF DEPARTS ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE

AB021251 Paris AFP in French 1143 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Dakar, 2 Sep (AFP)--President Abdou Diouf of Senegal left Dakar Tuesday morning on a 48-hour official visit to France. This is his first visit to this country since his ascension to the presidency on January 1, this year.

During the visit, Mr Diouf, who is also the secretary general of the Senegalese Socialist Party--related to the French Socialist Party in the International Association of Socialist Parties--is expected to meet President Francois Mitterrand of France.

The Senegalese head of state is accompanied by Jean Colin minister of state and secretary general of the presidency of the republic; and by Moustapha Niasse, minister of state for foreign affairs.

ANGOLA

DEFENSE MINISTER DENIES PRETORIA WITHDRAWAL CLAIM

EA021244 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] Yesterday, Angolan Minister of Defense Pedro Maria Tonha refuted Pretoria's allegations that its forces were withdrawing from the occupied territory in the southern part of Angola. In an interview given to journalists, the Angolan minister also noted the mobilization of racist forces to occupy other parts of Angolan territory.

Meanwhile, the Angolan ambassador in Lisbon said in Lisbon yesterday that South Africa is planning to advance to the city of Lubango, the main city in the southern part of the country. The Angolan ambassador added that the objective of the invasion by the racist forces is to create an area of tension along the border with Namibia, where they will install the forces of their Angolan puppet, Jonas Savimbi. To corroborate this fact, Ambassador Sebastiao said that last week South Africa had transported about 31 tons of war material into Angolan territory to support Savimbi's forces in their destabilization action against Angola.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CONDEMNS U.S. VETO AT UN

EA031158 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Declaration of the Angolan Council of Ministers issued on 2 September in Luanda]

[Text] In view of the serious situation existing in the southern part of the People's Republic of Angola [PRA] created by the wicked invasion and perpetrated by the fascist and racist military forces of Pretoria, the head of state and Government of Angola brought to the attention of international organizations and agencies the true facts of brutal aggression and of its serious consequences.

Thus a message was sent to the UN secretary general requesting the convening of an emergency meeting of the Security Council in order to take the appropriate steps made necessary by the creation of this situation which constitutes a serious violation of sovereignty and of the territorial integrity of the PRA, and which at the same time represents a very grave threat to peace and international security.

Despite firm protests by various nations against the South African invasion and solidarity from various countries and national and international organizations, the U.S. Government did not hesitate to reach the shameful decision to veto the adoption of a resolution by the Security Council strongly condemning the racist Pretoria regime for its persistent acts of aggression against the PRA, through illegal use of the Namibian international territory to carry out armed invasions and destabilization against the PRA. It demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South African forces from Angolan territory. It called upon the UN member states to grant as a matter of urgency material assistance to the PRA in order to secure its national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. It demanded payment by the racist Pretoria regime of full compensation to the PRA for loss of human lives and material damage resulting from the acts of aggression. It requested the imposition of mandatory global sanctions against the racist Pretoria regime in conformity with the dispositions of Chapter [as heard] 7 of the UN Charter.

The veto imposed by the U.S. Government constitutes not only a declaration of its strong alliance with the odious apartheid system but also an openly negative stand against human rights. It cynically succored the invader in an insolent challenge to the African peoples in particular, and also the rest of the international community, which strongly condemned the wicked South African invasion.

The Council of Ministers vehemently denounces the shameless connivance of the Reagan administration with the apartheid regime in the acts of aggression committed against the Angolan people and the PRA, thus against Africa, and protests strongly against the abuse of the veto right by the U.S. Government which shows total disdain for efforts made by the government of the PRA in the implementation of resolutions of the UN Security Council, especially Resolution 435/78.

In an extraordinary session, the Council of Ministers of the PRA said that it may have to apply Article 51 of the UN Charter. The PRA Council of Ministers reiterated its profound appreciation of the worldwide condemnation of the South African invasion and the many worldwide condemnation of the many rallies of solidarity with the Angolan people held by various international communities.

[Signed] The Council of Ministers of the PRA, 2 September, 1981

ROLE OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN FIGHTING DISCUSSED

EA031156 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Excerpts] Heavy fighting continues in the southern part of Angola between the Peoples Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] and the invading forces of the South African regime. According to Angolan Minister of Labor and Social Security Braz da Silva, the invaders are trying to occupy settlements in the interior of Angola. Quoting first-hand reports from the battlefront, the Angolan minister said the South Africans are now facing an army that is better prepared militarily than during the war of aggression of 1975-76. On the ground, FAPLA is now superior to the South Africans in equipment and combat capability. He said the South Africans control only the air. Braz da Silva also said the Cuban soldiers stationed in Angola will intervene in the fighting only if the South Africans reach their positions.

An unconfirmed report from the combat area says FAPLA has downed six aircraft and helicopters, destroyed tanks and killed tens of South African soldiers.

MOZAMBIQUE

CHISSANO INTERVIEWED ON SOUTH AFRICAN INCURSION

EA021204 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 2 Sep 81

[Text] The South African invasion of Angola constitutes a threat to world peace. Therefore, it is the moral duty of all countries to help Angola to defend its sovereignty. This was stated by the Mozambique minister of foreign affairs, Joaquim Chissano, in an interview given to Voz de Frelimo.

The head of the Mozambique Foreign Ministry said the present invasion of Angola comes within the scope of imperialist treaties aimed at destabilizing the newly independent countries in southern Africa, namely, those that are working for development in the area, such as Angola and Mozambique. Minister Joaquim Chissano said imperialism has sought for a long time to create in southern Angola a cordon sanitaire with which to inhibit the activity of the SWAPO fighters and attempt to create a puppet state.

The Mozambique leader expressed the hope that the next session of the UN General Assembly on Namibia will approve measures against South Africa, this being more difficult to achieve in the Security Council due to the U.S. veto.

SOUTH AFRICA

AFP ON MILITARY AIMS IN ANGOLA, CAPTURED RUSSIAN

AB031146 Paris AFP in French 1012 GMT 3 Sep 81

[Text] Johannesburg, 3 Sep (AFP)--An informed Western source said today in Johannesburg that all Angolan radar and antiaircraft installations up to 150 km north of the Namibian border have been destroyed by the South African Air Force. The air raids were aimed in particular at the Soviet-made SAM-3 missile sites in Cahama and Chibemba, 130 and 200 km north of the Cunene River respectively.

The same source emphasized that neutralization of the Angolan antiaircraft defense system in Cunene Province was one of the objectives of Operation Proteus, launched by South Africa 10 days ago.

Concerning this issue, observers note that the recent installation of radar and missile sites in southern Angola posed a problem for the South African Army Headquarters, which could not launch surprise air raids on SWAPO bases. The other objective of operation Proteus was to destroy one of the regional headquarters of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, the armed wing of SWAPO, situated 6 km from Xangongo, according to informed Western sources.

A spokesman of the South African Ministry of Defense has also said that M Sgt (Nicolae Feodorovich Pestretsov), the Soviet junior officer captured in southern Angola 50 km from the Namibian border, is 36 and has been in Angola since 1979.

The South African military forces disclosed on Wednesday that several Russian soldiers, whose identities have not yet been made public but among whom are two lieutenant colonels, were killed during Operation Proteus. The South African Ministry of Defense has not revealed where the captured Soviet master sergeant is at present, but the Johannesburg Rand DAILY MAIL thinks that he has been taken to Pretoria. A spokesman of the ministry has said that the Soviet junior officer will be treated "as we hope South African prisoners will be treated."

Observers recall that the South African forces captured three Cuban soldiers during intervention in Angola in 1975. These soldiers were later exchanged for eight South African soldiers in September 1978, under the auspices of the International Red Cross. The Soviet master sergeant could be offered in exchange for one of the South African men, Johan Van der Mescht, who was captured by SWAPO in 1978.

In any case, the capture of (Feodorovich) has made the headlines in the South African press. The progovernment daily, the CITIZEN, asserts in an editorial that the presence of Soviet and Cuban troops in Angola has given a new dimension to a battle which General Malan, the South African minister of defense, admits has become more difficult. The Russians have an eye on South-West Africa and have been using SWAPO guerrillas as their henchmen, he adds.

The commentator of the state-owned South African Broadcasting Corporation believes that events during the last few days have revealed to all an attack planned by the Russians against Africa and against the West via Africa.